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Central Bank raises interest rates 0.7%

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Raising its key lending rates for the first time in 14 months, the Bank of Israel yesterday said it will lift the rate at which it lends to banks by 0.7 of a percentage point to 13.4 percent, effective Thursday.

The increase was above expectations and is likely to prompt declining share prices tomorrow, said analysts, who expected the central bank to lift rates 0.3 percent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on an official visit to Tokyo, was upset over the decision, Channel 2 reported last night.

Chambers of Commerce presi-

dent Danny Gilleran called the bank's decision "a slap in the face to the government and a blatant expression of no-confidence in its economic policy." Frenkel should resign, he asserted.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said the rate hike would deepen the recession and increase unemployment, because it "shoves a stick into the spokes of the government's economic policy."

This dooms the government's plans for a 5 percent growth rate, he added.

Contractors Association president Uri Dori predicted the rate hike would harm investment in the construction industry by making it harder to obtain credit.

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PM: Ross coming back

Warns of Arafat's 'kiss of death'

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

TOKYO — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat may have given the Middle East peace process "the kiss of death" when he embraced Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned yesterday at the start of his working visit to Japan.

Netanyahu reiterated his commitment to the peace process, while at the same time asserting the PA has not met its obligations under the Oslo Accords.

Netanyahu said US envoy Dennis Ross intends to return to the Middle East to follow up on Palestinian promises to improve security ties with Israel.

"He [Ross] intends to return to check the extent of the fulfillment of Palestinian promises," Netanyahu said in remarks broadcast on Israel Radio.

State Department spokesman James

Rubin responded by saying there are no immediate plans for Ross to return to the region. He also told reporters that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke with Netanyahu on Saturday, but has not yet decided when she will travel to the region.

Rubin said the visit would occur "very soon" and that prospects for its success would be aided if the Palestinian Authority provides Israel "additional information and cooperation" through the trilateral security apparatus established during Ross's trip earlier this month. Such a development would help shift the focus from security matters to "restoring the trust and confidence that's been so unfortunately lost," Rubin added.

Although Netanyahu has concentrated on economic issues and business opportunities in his talks with Japanese officials and industrialists, his public comments are often interspersed with political comments, especially with regard to

the PA. The prime minister confirmed that the military aspect of the Middle East situation came up in yesterday's meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"He is interested in seeing stability in the Middle East," Netanyahu said. "I told him that the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were a reaction to terrorism, not an act of punishment directed against the Palestinians."

One of the points stressed repeatedly by Netanyahu is that "peace and prosperity go together." At the same time, he stresses that peace and terrorism cannot coexist.

A senior Palestinian official said on Monday the PLO has told militant groups opposed to its peace deals with Israel that they must suspend violent attacks.

See ROSS, Page 2



PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Tokyo yesterday at the start of his four-day visit. (Reuters)

'Merge Japanese production with Israeli ingenuity'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

TOKYO — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday called for a "merger" that would join Japan's manufacturing and marketing abilities with Israel's innovative high-tech industries, thus creating a "partnership" that would benefit both countries.

He noted that "speed and quality of innovation" — assets which Israel possesses in relative abundance — "are the best way to increase competitiveness, and the key to the 21st century."

Speaking at a packed meeting of the Keidanren Industrialists Association, Netanyahu urged his audience to look to Israel "for the outsourcing of research and development for your respective industries."

He also said he had delivered a message to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto from King Hussein and himself urging Japan to invest in a water purification and desalination project in Jordan.

"The region's population is grow-

ing geometrically, but the water supply is flat," the prime minister said.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Netanyahu began their first full day in Japan by calling on Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako at the royal palace. Their conversation, which was conducted in English, centered on the history and culture of Israel.

Next on Netanyahu's tight schedule was a meeting with Shoichiro Toyoda, one of Japan's leading industrialists and head of the Toyota company. Toyoda is also chairman of the economically influential Keidanren.

Netanyahu reminisced afterwards that the first jeep he drove in the IDF was made by Toyota, but well-informed Israeli officials did not confirm a report that a Toyota assembly plant will be erected near the Erez checkpoint to employ both Palestinians and Israelis.

Another recurrent theme in the Prime Minister's talks here is his desire to inaugurate direct El Al flights between Tel Aviv and Tokyo.

Netanyahu is anxious for them to start well in advance of the November 1998 economic conference due to take place in the context of the state's 50th anniversary.

Although Japan Air Lines has expressed no interest in launching a parallel service, Netanyahu believes the El Al link would not only bring a significant influx of Japanese tourists, but would also facilitate access to Israel by Japanese investors and prospective business partners.

Negotiations on the Tel Aviv-Tokyo air link are stalled on the security issue, particularly Israel's insistence on having its personnel involved in the pre-flight process, according to highly-placed sources.

The sources added that Japanese exporters want a bigger share of the Israeli market, and are complaining to the Prime Minister as well as to Finance Minister Yacov Neeman about customs and other tariff barriers which they deem discriminatory in comparison with those imposed on their Western European competitors.



Rocky road to peace
Palestinian men pose yesterday with a boulder placed by the IDF to enforce the closure of the territories near Bethlehem. Residents tore down part of a barrier set up by soldiers near the town. See story, Page 2. (AP)

Budapest possible site for Israeli-Syrian talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday urged the Damascus regime to return to the negotiating table and praised it for helping wind down the latest escalation in Lebanon.

"The Syrians made an important contribution to this end," Netanyahu said in Tokyo, implying that Damascus was instrumental in discouraging the Iranian-backed Hizbullah from intensifying the sporadic hostilities in southern Lebanon.

"Israel and Syria worked to downplay the tension," he said at a packed news conference, adding that "peace will give Syria an opportunity to become more viable economically."

Israeli and Hungarian diplomats said yesterday they could neither confirm nor deny comments attributed to Foreign Ministry Director-

General Eitan Bentsur that Israel and Syria are considering holding a new round of peace talks in Budapest.

Bentsur was quoted by the Hungarian daily *Nepszabadsag* as saying he "cannot rule out that the Hungarian capital could be the venue for Syrian-Israeli consultations."

Bentsur, who was in Hungary over the weekend to prepare for a three-day official visit by Netanyahu on September 19, did not give further details.

An Israeli embassy spokeswoman said she could neither confirm nor deny that talks were planned.

A Hungarian foreign ministry spokesman said the Hungarian government had not received an official request to host talks from either Israel or Syria.

Yesterday, dozens of Israeli tanks and military vehicles took part in a training exercise in the central Golan Heights in full view of the Syrian army.

The force was part of the culminating exercise of the IDF's annual battalion and company commanders' course. Its commander, Brig-Gen. Y. said the exercise had no direct bearing on the Syrian moves.

See BUDAPEST, Page 2

Yemenite mother and child reunited after 49 years

Margalit Amosi, who lives in Petah Tikva, was told yesterday that genetic tests had determined that American citizen Tsila Levine is her biological daughter who went missing as a baby 49 years ago.

Amosi, like many Yemenite Jews who arrived in the late 1940s and early 1950s, had not known if her hospitalized baby had died or been adopted by childless Ashkenazi parents.

The news released the emotions which had been bottled up for nearly half a century, causing Levine and Amosi to burst into tears.

After waiting for the results of the tests for a week, Levine said: "Now we can cry and cry for joy."

"I feel like the lights have been turned on in my heart," Levine declared when attorney Rami Tsubari informed her of the test results from the Hebrew University, saying they were 99.9 percent conclusive.

"I've never stopped looking for her," Amosi said. "She was in my heart every day and every hour. Every Friday when I lit Shabbat candles, I remembered her."

"I feel blinded and really happy

that I did the trip this time and got results," said Levine, who lives in the US and has returned here several times to find her biological parents.

"I am happy for Margalit, who had to go through all this hardship, and I also feel it as a mother." "God gave me a gift," Amosi added. "I want to see my new grandchildren, two boys aged 23 and 25. I want to see them all, and her husband. I haven't slept for three nights... Now everything will be easier for me."

Amosi met with Levine several days ago and they waited together for the test results.

It was the culmination of three years of hard work by Tsubari to discover the circumstances of Levine's adoption.

He published a photograph of Levine as a baby, and the Amosi family saw the resemblance to the child it had lost and made contact.

The Amosi's baby, only several weeks old, disappeared in 1948 after she was hospitalized. They were told she was "missing."

See YEMENITE, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Ministry ends probe of deputy police chief

The Justice Ministry has completed its investigation of Police Deputy Inspector-General Gabi Last and has passed its findings on to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

The suspicions against Last focused on alleged connections with underworld figures in Netanya. Last is currently in Russia with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to investigate an alleged mafia ring headed by Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner). (Jlm)

Arad denies conflict with Naveh

Uzi Arad yesterday dismissed the notion that he was in personal conflict with Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh as absurd and inaccurate.

Arad, in Tokyo with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, described the "small, but efficient" team working with the Prime Minister as an exceptionally efficient group of individuals who respect and help rather than undercut one another, and called reports to the contrary "political gossip." Jay Bushinsky

Four illegal Palestinian homes demolished

The Civil Administration yesterday destroyed four Palestinian homes it said were built illegally in the West Bank.

"We demolished four homes, two in Za'ayim and two in the village of Nahalin. All four were illegally built structures," a Civil Administration spokesman said.

The homes in Za'ayim, near the Mount of Olives, were nearly complete and not yet occupied, witnesses said.

In Nahalin, near Bethlehem, Palestinians threw stones at IDF troops sent to guard bulldozers used to demolish the homes. (Reuters)

Over 70 face action in IDF bribery scandal

The IDF has filed charges against a dozen officers and soldiers for allegedly accepting bribes to grant recruits easy service and over 70 face disciplinary courts-martial, the army said. The alleged bribery took place at the Tel Hashomer induction center and involved dozens of cases of recruits seeking to get out of field units and assigned close to home. Criminal charges are to be brought against 12 officers and soldiers and the other 70 face disciplinary action for lack of sufficient evidence to charge them, sources said. The bribes reportedly involved small sums, bottles of cologne, and tickets to shows. Arieh O'Sullivan

Officers punished for beating Beduin soldier

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Two officers from an elite unit accused of calling a Beduin soldier a "smelly dog" and beating him were convicted by a disciplinary court. The company commander in the anti-tank unit was sentenced to five days of hard labor with a 10-day suspended sentence and his deputy was given a 14-day suspended sentence.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said he regretted that these sort of things occurred in the IDF. He was updated on the incident and the punishment meted out.

The two officers were court-martialed after OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine and Brig.-Gen. Benny Lidor, commander of the Ga'ash division where the unit is based, personally investigated the incident.

The incident occurred last Wednesday when the staff CO and

his deputy came to the room of the Beduin soldier on their base in Judea and Samaria to bid him farewell. The soldier was exhausted and refused to open the door. The officers broke in and beat him and cursed the soldier. Initial report of the event on Israel Radio drew a slew of condemnations from politicians, Beduin and the public.

Levine said that the IDF viewed the actions of the officers very gravely and ordered their court-martial. At their trial, the officers expressed their regret and apologized to the soldier and his family. The incident comes amid growing complaints by minorities of discriminatory treatment by other soldiers.

"Our army is part of our society and reflects our society. But we should be more above that and serve as an example to society. We can't allow this sort of [racist] behavior to exist," said Brig.-Gen. Y., a senior IDF commander.

ROSS

Continued from Page 1

"We have asked the opposition groups to oppose peace deals only through democratic and peaceful means and not through military attacks," Arafat aide Tayeb Abdel Rahim said after a "national unity" meeting with Moslem militants in Gaza.

"Otherwise the [Palestinian] Authority will by law crack down on those who try to embarrass it by taking the law into their own hands," Abdel Rahim told Reuters.

Abdel Rahim said the unity talks were aimed at finding common ground between the authority and its opponents in light of "Israel's refusal to implement peace deals."

Abdel Rahim said Hamas has demanded the release of its activists from PLO jails, but that the authority refused until Hamas agrees to respect Arafat's peace commitments to Israel.

Palestinian officials said no agreements had yet been

reached and that the talks would continue.

Arafat on Monday reiterated that his people "will not kneel" to Israeli pressure following the closure of the West Bank and Gaza strip.

Arafat, who met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the crisis, said Israel is using "tough and inhuman" measures to force the Palestinians to concede ground at the negotiating table.

Egypt's official Middle East News Agency quoted Arafat as saying that Mubarak offered him "valuable advice" to face the closure, but did not elaborate. The meeting took place in the port city of Alexandria.

"Israel is trying to make the Palestinian people kneel. But I say to the world, so that everyone near and far can hear, that the Palestinian people will not kneel," Arafat was quoted as saying by MENA.

Arafat said he supports a call for an Arab summit to face the "problems that the Arab world is facing" and the future of Jerusalem.

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report.

IAF blasts Jibril base near Beirut

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes blasted a Palestinian terrorist base south of Beirut yesterday during another day of fighting in Lebanon which a South Lebanese Army officer was lightly wounded.

The air raid was the second on Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command hilltop base at Na'ameh in just over a week.

The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to base.

Reports from Lebanon said four jets fired several air-to-ground missiles at the base. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

According to the reports, IAF

planes also staged low-level flights over eastern parts of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley not far from Syrian Army forward lines in the area.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, speaking after the IAF air raid in Lebanon yesterday, said that Israel is wants to keep understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath last year not to strike at civilians, but will continue its fight against Hizbullah.

"We want to talk. We want to find answers, political solutions to the Lebanon problem," Mordechai said. "But as long as they are not found, we will have to fight in Lebanon in order to provide the safety to the residents of the north and security to the

State of Israel."

"We are interested in keeping to the understandings if the other side keeps them," Mordechai said, adding that Israel was looking for way to reduce the tensions.

Mordechai was speaking to reporters during a tour of Beit Shemesh, where he dedicated a rose garden in the name of the seven school girls slain by a Jordanian soldier in Naharayim.

The air raid yesterday, the ninth by the IAF on targets in Lebanon in the past month, appeared to be part of the ongoing measures to put pressure on the Lebanese government and the Syrians to restrain Hizbullah.

The organization has made it clear, despite the Katyusha rocket

attacks on the Galilee last week, that it intends to adhere to the Grapes of Wrath understandings, while continuing its "resistance" activities in south Lebanon aimed at bringing about the collapse of the SLA and the ousting of the IDF from the region.

Earlier yesterday, an SLA officer was lightly hurt when a roadside bomb was detonated alongside an SLA patrol in the Bint J'ail region in the western sector of the security zone.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, which was close to the area where another SLA soldier was killed in a similar explosion last week.

The wounded officer was treated in the field and later brought to Nahariya's government hospital.

In the early hours of the morning, Hizbullah also fired several mortar rounds at the IDF's Dabsha position in the eastern sector of the zone. There were no casualties in that incident and IDF gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, Lebanese radio stations reported that several tank rounds fired from inside the zone hit a village on the outskirts of Nabatiya township, in the eastern part of south Lebanon.

Four homes and two cars were damaged by the shells, although there were no casualties, according to the reports. SLA sources were quoted as saying that gunners had fired at Hizbullah positions in the area.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Palestinian Police aim at IDF troops

By Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

BETHLEHEM — While troops fired rubber bullets and teargas for four hours at 70 stone-throwing Palestinian youths on Monday near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, Palestinian police took up positions behind barricades and pointed their assault rifles at the Israelis, witnesses said.

"It's on the edge. If they come closer, we will shoot," said one Palestinian policeman who would not give his name. Several of the officers wore green surgical masks as protection against tear gas.

Three Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets, hospital officials said, adding that one was hit in the neck.

At adjacent Beit Sahour, middle-aged men including Christian and Moslem clerics tore down part of an Israeli barricade blocking a road into the village.

Young Border Police, apparently uncertain opposite the crowd of older — and some elderly — Palestinian men, stood watching for about 30 minutes as the group tore at the barricade with shovels, hoes and their bare hands. They moved in and stopped the group when the Palestinians brought in a bulldozer.

"This is the corpse of peace under these heaps of soil placed here by [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's forces," said Kamal al-Sheikh, the PA police commander who accompanied the demonstrators. He was wearing civilian clothes.

A robed Roman Catholic priest who identified himself as Father William helped a group of men roll a boulder from the road, and called Israeli actions unjustified.

"We can't understand that for the sake of Israeli security Palestinians cannot cross from here to there. They want to kill Bethlehem... They want to choke Bethlehem, to suffocate Bethlehem," he said.

"We are living in a big prison," said 18-year-old protester Khaled 'Akafiah. "The Israelis haven't left us with any hope for peace. They force us to fight to lift the closure on our city."

Israel has said it will ease the closure imposed after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings last month when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat cracks down on militants. A Hamas leaflet has claimed responsibility for the bombing, but officials on both sides question its authenticity. The dead bombers have yet to be identified.

Arafat's security men have been meeting their Israeli and U.S. counterparts to exchange information, but Arafat has rejected Israel's demand to make mass arrests, calling it a "dictate" that could cause civil war.

According to Reuters, Israel suspects that the two masterminds of the Jerusalem bombing are hiding in Bethlehem.

"When we have cooperation with the Palestinians on security issues, then we will be able to lift the closure," Prime Minister Netanyahu told Israel radio in an interview from Japan where he is visiting.

Army: Missing soldier was not mistreated

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Guy Haver, the artillery corps soldier who has been missing for eight days, was not humiliated or mistreated by his fellow soldiers, a senior IDF commander said yesterday.

Soldiers and police are still looking for Haver and with each passing day the chances of finding him alive grows less.

The senior source said the IDF and police still have no trace of the fate of the soldier or any clue as to where he may have fled.

Haver's family believe their son was humiliated and mistreated because he did not fit in.

But the senior commander said an inquiry with Haver's battery revealed no physical or psychological abuse.

Haver's parents and fellow soldiers have described Haver as a computer expert and very clever, but said he didn't always fit in with the rest of the group. The report that soldiers abused him is wrong and is an injustice to his unit, the senior commander said.

Haver disappeared with his weapon on Aug. 17 after finishing guard duty at his base on the Golan Heights.

"If you are able, contact us immediately. We miss you very much," said Haver's father Dr. Eitan Haver, a psychologist. He said the army had told him that his son would not face any punishment if he returned.

As of last night, there was no reply from his son.

"Her father wanted a son, but when he saw her at the home of a pediatrician in Haifa's Carmel neighborhood, he decided to take her," Fraser said. "If they had known that this was a baby taken in mysterious circumstances from her parents, they would not have taken her."

Fraser reconstructed the moment that Tsubari had called Levine to give her the results of the test yesterday.

"He asked me to prepare a glass of water, because he was about to give her the news. I held her and hugged her the whole time, and then she went to Petah Tikva. She was overcome with emotion. You can say the story has a happy ending."

During her stay, Levine also returned to Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz. Members of the kibbutz were excited to hear her news last night.

Dina Fraser, a childhood friend of Levine's, recalled that she had been brought to the kibbutz when she was a month old in 1948 by her adoptive parents, the late Andy and Motel Rosen.

peace negotiations with Israel. Mordechai also said he had met with US officials regarding the transfer of advanced missile technology from Russia and China to Iran.

"Deploying Iran's weapons system poses a danger to the region," Mordechai said.

"We used all of our influence, direct and indirect, on China. We are doing it directly and indirectly with Russia and of course we are being aided by our main and central partner, the United States, so that it exerts its influence so that advanced technology does not fall into Iran's hands, either directly or indirectly," Mordechai said.

Reuters



Sara Netanyahu poses with a Japanese kimono yesterday during a visit to a dressing academy in Tokyo. Holding her arm is the academy's school master Shizue Takizawa. (AP)

Sara Netanyahu charmed at pre-school

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The sight of Japanese kindergarten children going through their daily routines put on a special reception attended by the Israeli Embassy. "It will take 2,000 years for us to match that kind of discipline," she said.

During her visit with the children, Netanyahu played and

Just to see those children getting into their pajamas at noon for their daily naps was something unforgettable," she said at a special reception attended by the Israeli Embassy. "It will take 2,000 years for us to match that kind of discipline," she said.

During her visit with the children, Netanyahu played and

danced with them and all evidently enjoyed themselves.

Her time table dovetails with that of her husband, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, allowing her to appear at his side during his public addresses, while enabling her the opportunity to see the non-political and non-economic aspects of the metropolis.

YEMENITE

Continued from Page 1

Levine said her adoptive parents had told her she had been chosen from many children waiting for adoption at the home of a well-known pediatrician in Haifa whose wife was a nurse.

She grew up on Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz in western Galilee, and noticed at an early age that her skin color was "different." Ever since, she tried to find her biological parents, publishing photographs of herself as a baby and a child in the press during her visits to Israel.

She left the kibbutz in her twen-

ties, emigrating to the US.

Ten days ago, Levine returned to Israel from the US and met with Amosi and her family. They patiently waited together for the results of the genetic tests conducted by Dr. Hassan Hatib of the Genetics Department at the Hebrew University.

During her stay, Levine also returned to Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz. Members of the kibbutz were excited to hear her news last night.

Dina Fraser, a childhood friend of Levine's, recalled that she had been brought to the kibbutz when she was a month old in 1948 by her adoptive parents, the late Andy and Motel Rosen.

BUDAPEST

Continued from Page 1

"The link is not direct. But you can't deny that the exercise here is improving our professional experience in an area where we may, and I hope we won't, have to fight in the future."

In a related matter, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the Syrian move closer to Iran was dangerous and blasted the Iranian efforts to obtain long-range missiles which would put the entire region in peril. Speaking during a tour of Beit Shemesh, Mordechai repeated his call to Damascus to resume

peace negotiations with Israel. Mordechai also said he had met with US officials regarding the transfer of advanced missile technology from Russia and China to Iran.

"Deploying Iran's weapons system poses a danger to the region," Mordechai said.

"We used all of our influence, direct and indirect, on China. We are doing it directly and indirectly with Russia and of course we are being aided by our main and central partner, the United States, so that it exerts its influence so that advanced technology does not fall into Iran's hands, either directly or indirectly," Mordechai said.

Jordan denies Yarmuk dam project

Jordanian Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh dismissed reports yesterday that his country would build a dam with Israel on the Yarmuk River.

Tarawneh said the planned dam, agreed under a peace treaty with Israel three years ago, would be built on the Yarmuk River where it runs between undisputed Israeli and Jordanian land.

"It should be on our territory and their territory proper," he said.

Reuters

The staff of The Jerusalem Report extends its deepest condolences to

Hirsh Goodman

on the tragic deaths of his sister and brother-in-law

SORELLE and ERIC ORELOWITZ

School opening agreement may be premature

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

What looked like the proverbial white smoke emanating from the Knesset Education Committee raised hopes yesterday for the opening of the school year as scheduled on Monday.

However, lingering questions about cuts in hours and the reinstatement of fired teachers made it still too early for parents to celebrate or pupils to start packing their backpacks.

The Knesset Education Committee issued a release stating it had "brought about the opening of the 1997-98 school year." However, despite the efforts of Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman and the promises of Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell, teachers' union officials said they are still waiting to see facts on the ground before calling off their threatened strike on Monday.

At the conclusion of an often loud meeting at the Knesset Education Committee yesterday, Dell promised Zissman, the teachers' union, and the National Parents Association that the agreement on funding for the long school-day reached with the Finance Ministry Saturday night means 70,000 classroom hours would be added to the system.

"This addition, plus the return of hours we received for natural increase, will lead to their being more hours this year than last, even after we subtract the number of

hours that were cut last year," he said. "More hours means more teachers."

He promised to send a directive to school district heads today regarding the new allocation of hours, provided the Finance Ministry sends him a written version of the agreements reached Saturday night.

An Education Ministry spokesman issued a statement last night saying "the MKs and representatives of the teachers and parents praised the director-general's statement, and said that therefore there is nothing to prevent the opening of the school year on time."

However, Secondary Schools Teachers Association spokeswoman Rivka Kanarek said yesterday afternoon that Dell was not prepared to commit himself regarding the reinstatement of teachers facing dismissal because of the previously planned cuts in class hours, and would not guarantee the total number of weekly class hours would remain the same.

"We want to see what's happening in the schools," Kanarek said. "The Education Committee plans to meet next Sunday to hear whether the classroom hours were indeed passed on to principals in the field, and whether first and second-year teachers who teachers' union officials said were being given dismissal notices were indeed retained."

"It's absolutely not true" to say

that all sides agreed to open the school year on time, as was reported on the radio yesterday afternoon, she said.

"We heard promises from Ben-Zion Dell; I don't know what's really going to be in terms of hours. We haven't heard from one principal telling us teachers slated for dismissal are going to be retained. Until we see what's happening in the field, we are not removing our threat of a strike," Kanarek said. She said the Histadrut Teachers Union has taken a similar wait-and-see approach.

While Dell insisted that the funds for the long school-day would free hours for regular instruction previously set aside for similar special programs, some MKs and Parents Association officials suspected the ministry was simply juggling figures.

"They're trying to throw sand in our eyes," said MK Dalia Itzik.

Teachers' union and Parents Association officials said they fear the ministry is simply pointing to the additional hours for the long school-day as the "extra hours" Dell was promising to add into the system — where in reality, serious cuts are already planned in schools where the long school-day program would not necessarily be implemented. "A long school-day in Sderot doesn't help pupils in Kfar Sava," said a Parents Association official.

Zissman promised all the parties involved would huddle again in a short time to try to come up with a

way to open the school year on time.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry last night released a breakdown of the financing of the long school-day: NIS 70 million in "internal changes" in the Educational and Culture Ministry budget; NIS 60 million in funds that will become available because of the institution of the long school-day, including

those earmarked for special projects and other needs; NIS 270 in additional funding from the Finance Ministry; and NIS 100m. from the planned festivities to mark the state's 50th anniversary.

The Finance Ministry spokesman said these funds would make possible a total of 85,000 classroom hours for the long school-day project.

Report recommends focus on learning disabilities

By JUDY SHEGEL

The Margalit Committee, headed by Prof. Malka Margalit of Tel Aviv University's School of Education, recommended giving priority to improving allocations and planning services for children with learning disabilities in its report presented yesterday to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer.

The 17 members on the committee, representing the Education and Health Ministries and the universities, worked for nine months.

They urged that every staffer in the educational system learn about learning disabilities, especially the teacher, who has a central role in

helping the pupils meet their potential.

"In view of the increase in awareness of learning disabilities and the number of pupils who apply for matriculation, the ministry should prepare financially and organizationally for the growing demand for taking matriculation exams orally," the committee said.

Hammer said the report was the first working plan in Israel for dealing with pupils with learning disabilities. "Despite the great increase in awareness in recent years, we are still far from a situation in which every pupil with a learning disability and his family receive the diagnosis and necessary treatment," he said.

Levy threatens to bolt coalition over 'social injustice'

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Foreign Minister David Levy warned yesterday that if the government cuts child allowances and old age pensions, or violates its other commitments to Gesher, the faction will quit the coalition.

"I hope the government implements every clause of the agreement it signed with Gesher," Levy said, vowing to sabotage any attempt to slash child allowances, old age pensions or the wages of working women.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Levy said: "This is not a threat, but a demand that the agreement made with Gesher be kept. If insisting that an agreement signed by a prime minister be honored is a threat, then I don't know what world we're living in." He said the agreement consists of seven clauses, including help for young couples, students, residents of development townships and others.

"We saw what was coming and

insisted on ensuring employment by setting up an inter-ministerial staff to create more jobs. No economy can survive if the number of unemployed continues to grow. The public's trust will collapse."

Levy noted that it was he who had managed to have the decision to cancel the long school day revoked. As soon as he heard of Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's intention to renege on the promise, Levy said he "clarified the matter, and it shall not be canceled."

"We're not threatening. When an agreement is signed it must be kept, that's all. The agreement was published. That is our reason for being in the government," Levy said. He proceeded to blast Treasury officials "who hasten to release all kinds of strange ideas in order to harm child allowances, old age pensions and the rights of working women. Floating ideas before the ministers have even heard of them is irresponsible."

Car thefts up 30%

Some 21,500 vehicles were stolen in the country in the first half of the year — almost 30 percent more than during the same period last year, according to Ze'ev Weiner, president of the Israel Association of Insurance Agents.

In July alone, Weiner said yesterday, more than 4,000 vehicles were stolen — 28% more than in the same month last year. He estimated that, by the end of the year, up to 45,000 vehicles will have been stolen.

Weiner was speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv called ahead of an insurance company conference that begins September 8 in Eilat.

He attributed the drop in insurance companies' profits to the rise in the number of stolen vehicles over the past year, and blamed the government for not allocating sufficient resources to combat the problem.

He said the total income of insurance companies from January to March 1997 was NIS 3,469 million, a drop of 5.1% compared to the same period last year.

The number of claims went up in the first quarter of the year by 5.8% to NIS 1,804.

Weiner called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to crack down on car thefts. He said the association is considering a petition to the High Court of Justice against the government for "not doing enough to protect its citizens and their property."

"One has to act as in a war," Weiner said. "The theft of cars is first and foremost a personal threat to all citizens of the state, more than a financial loss." (Iim)

Kibbutz reconsiders monkey business

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

Kibbutz Or-Hanar has suspended plans to breed monkeys and other primates for scientific experiments. The decision follows heavy criticism by animal rights groups and kibbutz members themselves.

The southern kibbutz had expected to receive the first few dozen primates this week, but the shipment has been postponed by at least two weeks, according to Nir Ben-Israel, a

member of the kibbutz secretariat.

"We decided to talk it over with the kibbutz members and hear from doctors who are both in favor and against," Ben-Israel said yesterday.

"We will discuss things now without pressure, without the monkeys hanging over us. Democracy will decide."

He said the kibbutz members, a large number of whom are from Argentina, had considered the moral issue before making the initial decision.



Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak embraces a member of the party's workers' committee after deciding to cancel dismissal notices that would have laid off one half of the party workers. (Israel Hadari)

Barak admits he made a mistake

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Labor leader Ehud Barak met the leaders of the party's workers' union yesterday to discuss how to implement personnel cuts in cooperation with the workers, after a four-day drama at the end of which Barak cancelled 35 dismissal notices and admitted he was wrong.

Barak, who had not set foot in party headquarters for four days, was received by the union leaders with hugs and kisses. Amid scathing criticism from prominent party figures, Barak said: "I take full responsibility for the entire event. I am not immune to mistakes. A leader must know how to admit his mistakes and learn from them. Maybe I should have waited another day or two to

hold discussions with the workers." Referring to the poster "Ehud fled again" which the workers put up, Barak said: "I am not easily frightened, not even by posters. I am the first to confront the party's difficult economic situation and the need for dismissals."

The party executive meeting scheduled for today was postponed for one week in order to hold it in a calmer atmosphere.

Barak is expected to come under more fire at the meeting, at which former party leader Shimon Peres is due to speak. Peres has reportedly said privately that Barak is destroying the party, and that what he is doing to Labor is a disgrace.

Barak said the meeting was held in a good atmosphere and both sides agreed to "erase the past and go forwards. One of

the lessons to be learned [from what happened] is that we must maintain a dialogue all the time, away from the media. Barak intends to continue with the cuts, but more gradually, and after helping find new jobs for the laid-off workers."

Barak yesterday rejected MK Nissim Ziv's initiative to appoint Peres party president, saying this would mark a return of the "camps" to Labor. Ziv said he would raise the matter, which had been brought up and dropped three months ago after Barak objected, at Labor's convention in Netivot on September 29.

"I was elected to lead the party, not to drag it back to the era of fights and corridor schemes," Ziv's proposal belongs to the past," he said.

NEWS

in brief

Tsomet gets hate mail

Tsomet director general Sami Shenfeld has filed a police complaint after hate mail was sent to the party's Tel Aviv headquarters yesterday. The envelope was signed with the initials, in English, C.G. Inside was a sheet of paper on which was written: "Fascists! Judeo-Nazis! We're sick of you! Your Judgment Day has come!"

The letter is believed to have been sent because Tsomet MKs are demanding a probe into the funding of haredi yeshivot. A television report had earlier spoken of fraud in the filing of funding claims. (Liat Collins)

Christian leaders tour north

Tourism and Religious Affairs Ministry officials yesterday hosted Christian leaders on a tour of religious sites in the north, as part of preparations for the year 2000. Among the churchmen was Monsignor Bathish, appointed by the Vatican to coordinate the Roman Catholic jubilee observance in the Holy Land.

The tour began with a reception hosted by Nazareth Mayor Ramzy Jeray, and continued with a viewing of the Nazareth 2000 development project being carried out by the Tourist Development Corporation and other government agencies. The church leaders also visited Cana, Capernaum, Tabgha and the Mt. of Beatitudes. (Haim Shapiro)

Arbel, Shoham to discuss prison deal

State Attorney Edna Arbel will meet with Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham this morning to discuss the agreement reached between prison authorities and soldier-inmates to end the August 11 uprising at Military Prison No. 6.

Arbel was consulted before the deal was signed, and said she preferred it to the use of force in order to retake the facility from the inmates. (Iim)

Meshulam follower remanded further

Menahem Sharma, a follower of imprisoned activist Uzi Meshulam, was remanded for another three days yesterday by Ramle Magistrate's Court.

This is the third remand for Sharma, who is suspected of planting a bomb at Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court on August 18. The bomb damaged the courthouse but caused no injuries. A search of Sharma's home revealed an undisclosed quantity of stolen property and illegal weapons. Judge Nava Kaplinsky ordered Sharma held further after reviewing classified police files, which convinced her his release might impede the investigation. (Iim)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAL YUDELMAN

The press, responding to recent economic developments, seems to be saying "Get ready for a tax hike."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised unequivocally that he would not raise taxes, remembers *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, who recalled Netanyahu's "read my lips" statement in the style of George Bush.

Now both the prime minister and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman "somewhere above the Japan sea, are discussing raising taxes," says Lapid, noting that a tax hike is an admission that the government has failed in its economic policy.

"Instead, it's easier to impose new taxes, as all failing regimes do. The bank governor will raise the interest rate to block inflation, the finance minister will raise taxes, and the prime minister will explain on television, in a firm convincing way, why he broke one of the promises which brought him to power," predicts Lapid.

David Lipkin in *Ma'ariv* says the government is confusing the public. At first the prime minister and Treasurer demonstrated determination to cut the education and defense budgets. A short time later, Netanyahu instructed Neeman to refrain from cutting the education budget. Now it seems they will have to back down from cutting the defense budget too, and may even increase it because of war threats from the North.

OLD STORY

Zvi Barel in *Ha'arets* talks about Netanyahu's announcement Sunday night that China will not sell Iran a nuclear reactor. This story is a little old, Barel notes, since China advised Israel two years ago that it was freezing the reactor's construction.

The decision was made, not because of Beijing's commitment to Israel or because it fell for the charms of the prime minister, but because Iran is not keeping up with its payments.

Russia, on the other hand, is continuing to build the reactor in Bushar, and is giving Iran advanced ballistic technology. "Russia does not seem impressed by the sharp message sent by Netanyahu, and it appears that reports about the great warming of Israel-Russia relations did not reach Moscow," he says.

Perhaps, suggests Barel, "we should cut off relations with Russia, or better still, impose a closure on it, until it fights the Iranian terrorism infrastructure."

ARAD'S SLIP-UPS

"After long years in the Mossad shadows, Uzi Arad was dazzled by the media flashlights and keeps stumbling," writes

Akiva Eldar in *Ha'arets*. Arad was fingered as the gunman in the prime minister's office who last week accused President Ezer Weizman of undermining Netanyahu. The accusation was officially denied by the PM's Office, and Arad reportedly intends to apologize to Weizman.

Eldar notes that the most important thing for Arad is to make an impression on Netanyahu. Less than a year ago, he writes, Arad joined Netanyahu on a trip to the United States, where he startled the American intelligence agencies with the sensational news that Iraq had enough materials to produce its first nuclear bomb. Another who was startled was Mossad head Danny Yatom. The US administration was furious when it learned the Israeli estimate was inaccurate, to put it mildly, writes Eldar.

"Netanyahu was unfazed. What was important to him was Arad's persuasive skills. The content of what he said was marginal," says Eldar. The prime minister's bureau was less than thrilled by Arad's coming aboard, he continues, noting that cabinet secretary Danny Naveh especially didn't like the competition in the morning news bulletins and television's *Mabat* news.

Naveh failed to update Arad on his meeting with US envoy Ross in Washington, notes Eldar, and then, "completely by accident," a press photographer arrived at the restaurant where Arad was dining on Tisha Be'av.

SORRY, NO CHILDREN

Netanyahu went to Japan to prove his thesis that there is no connection between peace and economics, and that there is life outside Washington, which is preparing to welcome President Weizman, writes Eldar, revealing some of the behind-the-scenes motives of Netanyahu's trip.

"So badly did Netanyahu want to get to Tokyo that he forgot to ask whether the emperor will be at home in August," continues Eldar, noting that reporters were proudly told that the crown prince will receive the prime minister.

"Two secretaries were sent a week in advance to see to it that Cuban cigars and Belgian chocolate were put in the hotel rooms. But [the prime minister's people] remembered to tell the Japanese only at the last moment that the prime minister wants to visit. The Japanese are very polite and hospitable people; the only hint of discomfort was that they are not prepared to look after little children. Bibi made do this time with his wife, [businessman and protegee] Izzy Tapuhi and 70 escorts and bodyguards."

Police to investigate yeshiva corruption

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Yossi Katz (Labor) told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday that he would give police information on suspicions that some yeshivot are filing false reports in order to receive more funds.

Katz, who chairs the committee, said he had received complaints that Habad yeshivot are getting certain students and are listing allocations for them even though the students live abroad. He also said he had heard of administrative staff being paid "under the table," while being registered as yeshiva students. This is in addition to charges made by Israel Television reporter Ayala Hasson on Sunday that some students are registered at more than one yeshiva, thus increasing the funding for both.

Additional complaints have reached the MKs that hundreds of

thousands of Kofei students who are apparently working for "black" money remain registered as students.

The meeting itself was dedicated to complaints that housing policy favors the haredi public. The discussion was held at the request of former committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz). Cohen claimed that between 1995 and 1997, the budget for traditional and secular neighborhoods has been cut by NIS 6 million, while nearly NIS 4 million has been added to the budget for haredi neighborhoods. He said the budget had been slashed completely in certain secular areas, including neighborhoods in Even Yehuda, Eliakim, Boei Ayish, Givatayim, Holon, the Old City of Acre, Rishon LeZion and Ramat Gan. He pointed out that out of nine needy neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, only one, which has a largely haredi population, was included in a recent

neighborhood rehabilitation project.

Housing Ministry Director General Meir Shlomo Greenberg said the ministry acts only according to professional considerations and invests money in the improvement and maintenance of neighborhoods according to their physical, economic and sociological needs, without regard to the sector of the population found there. He said the project for strengthening neighborhoods provides money for three or four years to stop physical decay and dilapidation, and that, for the neighborhoods Cohen mentioned, the time covered by the project had simply expired, and so money had been allocated to other areas.

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) complained of a tendency to blacken the name of all haredim. He said illegalities should of course be investigated and prosecuted, but should not reflect on a sector of the public as a whole.

Referring to Katz's call for a special committee meeting on the yeshiva issue, Gafni said he would demand a similar meeting on apparent irregularities found by the State Comptroller in the Education Ministry's funding of youth movements while the ministry was under Meretz control.

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said the housing issue was being investigated by her office without relation to specific sectors, but if the arrows seem to point toward one sector, she would not hesitate to note the fact.

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Council mooted to monitor yeshivot

By LIAT COLLINS

Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky is calling for the establishment of a higher education council for yeshivot along similar lines to the council overseeing universities and colleges. Such a council could solve problems stemming from the way allocations to the yeshivot are handled politically, he said.

"The same way we support students of Talmud at universities, there's no reason not to support Talmud students at yeshivot," said Lubotsky, who is modern Orthodox. He said that while the situation had improved over the last 10 years, responsibility for funding should be removed from the Religious Affairs Ministry and placed in the hands of an independent council.

The Knesset would determine how much the council should receive and the council would make the allocations. Lubotsky, formerly head of the Hebrew University's mathematics department, noted that universities receive funds according to the number of registered students and

for development programs. He said the yeshivot try to make up for the lack of the development funds "by all sorts of different tricks."

He noted that the funds for yeshivot are not monitored like university funds, because they come from so many different sources - including the Education, Religious Affairs, Defense, and Labor and Social Affairs ministries - as well as from scholarships for needy students and municipalities.

"Because of this, it is a gray area in which nobody knows who gets what," Lubotsky said. However, he said, the yeshiva heads are concerned that supervision by a council would lead to external interference in the curriculum.

"The main thing is to ensure there will be no connection between this council and the religious parties," Lubotsky said. He noted that the present criteria for funds reflect which party is in control of the Religious Affairs Ministry, so that Shas tries to favor large families while the National Religious Party adds credit for IDF veterans.

100th Zionist Congress begins today in Basel

By MARILYN HENRY

The 100th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress will be commemorated amid tight security this week in Basel, but without the president of Israel.

President Ezer Weizman sent regrets - last January - that he would not attend the ceremonies honoring Theodor Herzl's dream. He cited scheduling conflicts.

The Herzl centenary seems to have been deflated by the con- tempts over Switzerland's war-time relations with the Nazis and its banks' failure to return Jewish assets to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

"We are here in Basel to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Zionism and the vision of Theodor Herzl, but we know that the whole issue of Switzerland during World War II cannot be put away for a week," said Thomas Lyssy, vice-president of the Swiss Jewish Federation. "The issue is here."

The commemoration opens today with a conference featuring Israeli and Swiss historians whose program seems heavy on Zionist thought and light on results a century after Herzl presided over the August 29-31, 1897, gathering of 196 Jewish intellectuals in a Basel casino.

While the timing was ironic, Lyssy said, it also had provided an opportunity that has been squandered.

"We thought it would be important that the president of the State of Israel be here at a very important place for the State of Israel,

and that it would have been a good opportunity for President Ezer Weizman to talk to the Swiss people," he said.

Some Swiss Jews privately grumbled that Weizman's failure to attend undercut Israel's claim to represent all Jews.

The commemoration also lost Arnold Koller, president of Switzerland.

"The official reason is protocol. If Ezer Weizman cannot come, the president of Switzerland cannot come," Lyssy said, adding: "I don't think this is a time to talk about protocol."

Instead, the Israelis will be represented at the formal ceremony on Sunday by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and Avraham Burg, head of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization. Burg, a member of the Jewish-Swiss committee overseeing a forensic audit of the Swiss banks, has been a vocal critic of Switzerland.

Security arrangements in Basel are very tight, and certain areas, including the synagogue and Jewish school, have been closed off to vehicles. "We have a week like Mea She'arim on Shabbat - no cars," Lyssy said.

Some 1,200 canton police and 730 Swiss soldiers will provide security in Basel, which Herzl chose for the congress a century ago when Munich refused to welcome him.

The security threat was seen as coming both from the conflict in the Middle East, as well as a fear of right-wing extremists and skinheads, Lyssy said.

Wild patients

The patients at this hospital aren't just sick, they're wild.

The country's newest veterinary hospital was inaugurated last night at the Abu Kabir Zoological Garden run by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. The facility is the first in the country dealing specifically with wild animals, and will treat victims of poisoning, hunting, abandonment and car accidents, among other things.

The hospital is stage two of the "Born to be Wild" project founded by the SPNI and Tnuva.

"Large numbers of wounded wild animals are brought to clinics around the country every year. There is no guiding or responsible body, and thousands die without treatment," said SPNI Director Eitan Gadalyon.

"This hospital will allow us to use the best available technology to treat the animals and release them back into the wild once they have recovered."

The director of the hospital is Dr. Yigal Horowitz.

Apart from the regular features, the veterinary center also includes a modern incubator for the eggs of birds belonging to endangered species. A special isolation unit is for animals suspected of suffering serious infectious diseases. (Tel. 03-524 1111)



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Ex-East German leader Krenz imprisoned for manslaughter

By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM

BERLIN (Reuters) — Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline communist leader, was whisked off to jail on Monday after being sentenced to six and a half years for the deaths of refugees trying to escape over the Berlin Wall.

A Berlin court found the 60-year-old Krenz guilty of manslaughter for four killings during the 1980s at the infamous Cold War barrier that divided the city between 1961 and 1989. Even though Krenz did not pull the trigger, the court said the grey-haired successor to Erich Honecker was nonetheless responsible because he shaped the shoot-to-kill orders given to the border guards, who gunned down at least 263 people.

There was an audible gasp in the sweltering courtroom from a large group of old-guard communist supporters when judge Josef Hoch ordered Krenz detained immediately — unusual for a German court — because he said there was a danger he would try to flee.

Krenz, who had denounced the trial as "victor's justice," shouted "I won't give up!" as he was whisked to the adjoining Moabit prison, less than two km west of where the Berlin Wall once stood.

Two other former members of East Germany's ruling Politburo, Guenter Schabowski and Guenter Kleiber, were found guilty of manslaughter for three killings at the Wall. They received terms of three years but were set free until the verdicts become legally binding.

The trial, which lasted more than one and a half years, was widely seen as the last major attempt by united Germany to bring East Berlin's communist leadership to book.

Honecker, who ruled the country with an iron fist for 18 years before being toppled and would have celebrated his 85th birthday on Monday, was released in the middle of his trial in 1993

because of ill health. He died in 1994 in Chile.

Seven other senior East German figures, including former Defence Minister Heinz Kessler, are serving terms of between three and six years following their conviction last year on 15 counts of manslaughter and attempted manslaughter between 1980 and 1989.

Krenz had expressed regret during the trial for the deaths at the wall, and at the border between the two Germanys, which victims' groups say exceeded 900.

But he insisted that, as a satellite state of the Soviet Union, East Germany had no control over its borders.

As a key part of his defence, Krenz presented a letter from former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who criticized the court for holding Krenz responsible for the Cold War killings.

But Hoch said prosecutors had presented clear evidence that the East Berlin Politburo had zealously turned broad guidelines from Moscow into the grisly machinery of death.

"The Politburo was responsible for border security," Hoch said. "The guards were in fact given an ideological order to shoot. The guards were taught that the refugees were enemies of peace and traitors to East Germany who should be destroyed."

Hoch said the East Berlin regime, fully aware that more than two million people had fled the country between 1949 and 1961, built the Wall because it knew that was the only way to keep the rest from leaving.

Krenz had planned to hold a news conference in a central Berlin hotel after the verdict. His son Carsten read a statement saying he planned to appeal to the European Court of Justice.

"I was not convicted because of crimes, but because of my political position," Krenz said in the statement. "The verdict is the Berlin state court's revenge for the existence of East Germany."



Egon Krenz is followed by press and paparazzi on the way to the courtroom in Berlin yesterday, just before he was convicted for manslaughter. (AP)

Swedes call for probe of Nazi-era sterilizations

By SIMON HAYDON

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — A Swedish politician called yesterday for a probe into "terrifying facts" showing that up to 60,000 Swedish women were sterilized against their will over a 40-year period.

Alf Svensson, leader of the Swedish Christian Peoples' Party, wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Goran Persson that a parliamentary commission should be established to shed light on the revelations.

"Terrifying facts are now being

placed before the Swedish people about a sterilization law that permitted forced sterilization for such a long time," Svensson wrote.

"It is in the government's and political parties' interests to open up this grim chapter in our history," he added.

Persson received the letter yesterday and no decision has yet been made about a commission, a spokeswoman said.

Revelations that Social Democratic Swedish governments — famous for introducing model welfare states — sterilized women to rid society of "inferior" racial

types and to encourage Aryan features have shocked Swedes.

The revelations were published in the liberal newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*, saying Sweden, Norway and Denmark pioneered racial cleansing "science" after World War I.

In Sweden the sterilizations began in 1935, peaked in 1946, and were not stopped until 1976. Officially voluntary, victims say they were ordered to sign permission slips or risk losing their other children and all benefits.

Most of the victims were "inferior" or of "poor or mixed racial

quality," meaning people with learning difficulties, from poor families or who were not of the common Nordic blood stock.

"To put it brutally, in Sweden it was only under the social democrats and in Germany only under the Nazis that a citizen's capacity for reproduction could be stolen because of the color of their hair or their handicap," journalist Maciej Zarembka wrote.

"What happened was nothing but barbaric," Social Affairs Minister Margot Wallstrom said on Saturday, adding she was prepared to review laws which said the sterilizations

were written into law and that damages could not be paid.

The revelations have caused deep embarrassment for the governing Social Democratic Party, credited with forming a model welfare state but now facing allegations of pioneering methods later used against millions by Nazi Germany.

"Racial cleansing and purging 'the undesirables' was on the whole a social democratic project... In Sweden sterilization surgery was part of the very base of the building of the welfare state," the journalist wrote.

Indonesia offers Russia jeans for jets

Jerusalem Post Staff

JAKARTA — Indonesia plans to offer Russia commodities and consumer goods in exchange for Russian Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets and Mi-17 helicopters, the official Antara news agency reported this week.

The agency quoted Trade and Industry Minister Tunku Arifwibowo as saying on Saturday the government had decided to offer commodities which were in demand on the international market.

The products included instant coffee, rattan, rubber, canned

fish, fertilizer and jeans.

"We will not only offer commodities, but also other industrial products such as soaps, detergent powder, tooth paste, shoes and textiles," he said.

Indonesia announced this month that it would acquire 12 Russian Sukhoi Su-30K fighter aircraft and eight Russian Mi-17-IV helicopters as part of a defence modernization plan.

The announcement followed Jakarta's decision in June to cancel a deal to buy nine U.S. F-16 jets following criticism in the U.S. Congress of Indonesia's human rights record.

CAIRO (AP) — Japan has agreed to give Egypt a \$99.27 million grant for the construction of a bridge over the Suez Canal, an embassy statement said yesterday.

The agreement was signed by Egypt's Minister of State for Planning and International Cooperation, Zafar Salim el-Bishri, and Mitsuo Sakaba, the Japanese charge d'affaires in Cairo.

The grant will be used for a government project that seeks to encourage about 3.2 million people to move from Cairo's overcrowded urban areas into newly

built communities in the Sinai Peninsula, east of the Suez Canal. The bridge would increase road traffic across the canal to 50,000-60,000 vehicles per day, up from the current 30,000, said a Japanese Embassy press release.

Currently, mainland Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula are connected with an underground tunnel. Commuters also use ferries to cross the canal.

The Sinai project is one of several touted by the Egyptian government to help develop the country. The government's key project, the \$88.75m. Toshka project seeks to irrigate large areas of

land in the New Valley and southern Egypt using a new canal and spillway beginning in Lake Nasser.

Japan to fund Suez Canal bridge

Kiev cautiously joins NATO drill

By ROSTISLAV KHOTIN

DONUZLAV NAVAL BASE, Ukraine (Reuters) — As Ukraine's navy spruced up this Soviet-era base for the week's Sea Breeze 97 exercises with NATO, officials were trying to limit the potential damage to relations with Moscow.

The event, a mock-up humanitarian operation rather than a combat mission, has annoyed Russia because it is being held with NATO, and on Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, where 75 percent of the population is Russian.

Furthermore, local people say the exercises — which bring together U.S., Turkish, Bulgarian, Romanian, Georgian and Ukrainian ships — could harm the lucrative tourist trade.

Officials disagree. "These exercises aim to improve the life and health of the people," Ukrainian Defence Minister Olexander Kuzmuk said last

week. "There should be no impact on the tourist season because ships cannot be seen from the beaches."

Colonel Boris Rekuts, a Donuzlav base commander, explained the idea behind the exercise: "It's the Orange republic and it's had an earthquake and we're trying to bring humanitarian aid."

The Ukrainian armed forces chief of staff, Colonel-General Olexander Zamnaiko, said last week that Ukraine would hold joint military exercises with Russia in Crimea in October.

"It's clear that Ukraine wants to maintain a balance between Russia and the West," said Serhiy Zgurets, a military commentator at the influential *Den* daily.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry sent Sea Breeze invitations to the Russian Black Sea fleet, which is based near Donuzlav under a 20-year leasing

deal between Kiev and Moscow. But Moscow agreed to send observers only, after rejecting not only the invitation but the very idea of exercises with NATO in Crimea, which for centuries has been fought over by Russia, Turkey, Britain and France.

"Crimea is a mountain of difficult memories. Everything here is historically very sensitive," Leonid Grach, leader of Crimea's Communist Party, told Reuters.

"It's better not to touch the past and not to hold these exercises," added Grach, whose party has headed the campaign of public opposition to Sea Breeze.

The area saw bloody battles during World War Two. In the 1950s, Kremlin leader Nikita Khrushchev ceded Crimea to the then-Soviet republic of Ukraine.

Communists in Crimea plan a march on Monday to the city centre, where a rally is planned near the Lenin monument.

Russia objects to NATO's eastward enlargement — although Ukraine has no immediate plans to join the alliance — and views the exercises as a precursor to a NATO presence in Crimea, a strategic location jutting into the Black Sea.

Ukraine has been an enthusiastic participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace program of military cooperation.

Originally, Ukrainian foreign and defence ministry statements said the exercises were to be only in Crimea. But the timetable showed that sports events and ceremonies marking six years of Ukrainian independence will be held in Donuzlav on Sunday, after the arrival of foreign vessels on Saturday.

On Monday, the ships will travel 200 km from Crimea to the southern Mykolayiv region, and then to the port of Odessa, where the exercises will take place.

Column One

Narrow escape

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Zambian police have shocked the world by shooting and wounding the respected former president, Kenneth Kaunda. Fortunately, the 73-year-old African elder statesman was only lightly hurt.

But as usual with a story which "suddenly" breaks into the headlines, it began a long time before.

The immediate run-up to the shooting was apparent last week to Africa-watchers when the capital's market traders rioted. In fact they rioted twice — once when a mysterious fire swept through the crowded marketplace, and again when police broke up trading stalls the rioters themselves had missed the first time.

Incidentally, our own government helped to build the Lusaka market, a lively and typically African heartbeat of the city. The trouble is, the area was supposed to accommodate 3,000 traders. But up to another 7,000 unlicensed vendors had been pressing in. When the fires broke out last week, the angry traders headed at once for the presidential palace, on the assumption the government had taken a quick and easy way to clear out the bootleg stalls.

The palace is occupied by the slippery President Frederick Chilubato, another of those dreary Africa rulers who, having reached power by reasonably fair means, seems determined to hang on to it by any means.

In a bid to divert the market merchants' anger, Chilubato came up with the mother of all disinformation by announcing via his spokesman Richard Sakala: "Government investigations have revealed that Kenneth Kaunda is behind the burnings."

Foot shot

If the president was not in any way behind the subsequent shooting of Kaunda, he certainly managed to shoot himself nearly in the foot in advance of it. If the president could blame Kaunda for burning the market, how could the government complain when the opposition then blamed it for targeting him?

Kaunda was a rarity among long-term African leaders who led their countries to independence — he stepped aside gracefully in 1991 after losing Zambia's first multi-party elections.

He lost to Chilubato, supposed then to represent a new generation of post-Cold War politicians. But in a return bout last year, it appeared Chilubato was more inclined to the old school of African politics.

He changed the constitution to bar Kaunda as a presidential candidate, because the parents of the Father of the Nation were born in Malawi. Kaunda's United National Independence Party boycotted the November election.

Kaunda is something of an enigma. Always known at home as "the one who was not expected," he is much loved at home and abroad, although the record of his 27 years in power is less than impressive. This is apart from the beginning, of course, when he led the country to independence from Britain, the first country in the region to do so.

Romantic

Politically he was a one-party-state leader for much of his tenure. Yet he was always regarded as a human, liberal man — something of a romantic, given to emotion and to poetry and music. He also was a devout Christian, but managed to combine it with African tribal custom and beliefs. He was undisputed figurehead of the frontline African states who opposed South Africa's apartheid system and a warm friend of Nelson Mandela. As Kaunda has grown older, it seems respect for him only grows and grows and memories of his mistakes fade and fade.

It is no wonder that Chilubato fears the grand old man will make a comeback. His name still commands respect abroad. As recently as last Thursday, he urged the West to keep pressure and sanctions on the Zambian government because of its anti-democratic tendencies.

On Saturday, Kaunda and Roger Chongwe, head of the Liberal Progressive Front, went to address an opposition rally in Kabwe, a large city 150 km north of Lusaka.

Kaunda later said police started firing tear gas into the crowd, after first breaking up the podium and some chairs. "The police pursued the party leaders into UNIP's offices, forcing them back onto the street with tear gas," he said. "As we walked to our cars, the police continued firing tear gas, about 30 to 40 canisters on us and the crowd. They continued firing tear gas into the car and tried to block its exit."

Messenger hunt

"The driver kept the car moving after police fired live ammunition at the occupants," Kaunda said. Visibly shaken, with blood still on his shirt, he told reporters Sunday said he had left the hospital because he did not feel safe there. "Before we left for Kabwe, I received information that Chilubato was preparing to assassinate both me and Chongwe. This blood is not for nothing."

Of course, the government has responded with blash, blash, big investigation, denial of responsibility. So, are police chiefs on suspension? Are those who fired the shots under arrest? Of course not.

The first target was the messenger corps. All the Sunday media "ignored" the shooting except one newspaper, although they reported "disturbances" at the Kabwe rally. Among the scores of opposition members rounded up at the rally was Zambia Post special projects editor Masauso Phiri — for taking pictures of the police rampaging through the rally.

Lusaka lawyer Mwangala Zaloumis, who was in the motor vehicle with Kaunda and Chongwe when police shot at them, said the rights of journalists are in grave danger in Zambia.

"Phiri's camera was smashed, his rolls of film destroyed, he was shoved around, assaulted — by police, no less" said Zaloumis. "It is shocking."

Blessed is the country that has no news. We have not heard of Zambia in the headlines for some time. It's back, and if we were Zambians, we should worry about that.

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To fly or not to fly?

As adversity plagues Mir, many question the safety of sending more US astronauts

By KATHY SAWYER

WASHINGTON — The orbiting Soviet space station has drifted for eight months uninhabited, out of control, silent, all its instruments dead. Without power, its dark interior has "frozen over like a peasant hut in winter." Icicles sprout from pipes; frost covers the walls and instruments.

This is not some worst-case prediction of what awaits the troubled Mir if the current crew fails in a crucial repair job set for early Friday. This was the grim scene that actually greeted a pair of cosmonauts 200 miles above Earth on June 24, 1995.

In a feat that is legend among spacefliers but virtually unknown to the broader public, the two cosmonauts, Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Viktor Savinykh, managed an unprecedented manual docking of their smaller spacecraft with the abandoned, slowly tumbling, railroad-car-sized station, Salyut 7. Clad in fur-lined jumpsuits and extra socks to ward off frostbite, they spent days scrambling back and forth between the two craft, rigging life-support systems, fumbling with wiring, fixing burst pipes, thawing frozen supplies and, against all odds, gradually reviving the tomblike facility.

Back then, the achievement was lauded as an exhibition of courage and resilience. The cosmonauts had "snatched (the space station) back from the brink of death," Western

expert James Oberg said afterward. He was impressed, he added, by the Soviet demonstration of American-style "competence and flexibility." Today, by contrast, a continuing plague of adversity aboard Mir is widely interpreted as symbolic of the Russian space program's economic and political decline, in dramatic contrast with its flush glory days under the Soviet empire. People wonder why anyone wants to save such an old rattletrap.

Have circumstances changed to the point that what once was deemed courageous is now just reckless? That is one of the debates that has swirled around the Clinton administration's decision to push cautiously forward with the US-Russian partnership in orbit despite the high-visibility troubles on Mir. Members of Congress, opponents of human spaceflight and expert critics such as Oberg have questioned the safety, as well as the usefulness, of sending any more American astronauts to fly on Mir.

In the world of spaceflight, however, people see the current orbital drama as a harbinger of a future they must confront, given that the US is committed to beginning construction of an international space station in orbit with the Russians next year.

Technical problems are the inevitable result of aggressive experimentation or, in the vernacular of the "right stuff," pushing the edges of the envelope. Collision, fire, loss of breathable

air and a host of lesser "random failures" are to be avoided whenever possible on a spacecraft, they say. But they must train hard to deal with such occurrences.

On Mir, now, they see an unparalleled "learning opportunity." "Any major system is going to have failures," Jim Van Laak, deputy manager of NASA's US-Russian flight operations, said last week. Whether on space stations, or commercial aircraft, he said, several hours of maintenance are routinely spent for each hour of flight time. Almost a million hours of "touch labor" are invested on a space shuttle before each brief flight.

"What we have not gotten used to in this country — and NASA is as guilty as anyone else — is having to sustain (a spacecraft) on a continuing basis" in orbit, he said. All the maintenance of the planned US-led international space station will be done in orbit by astronauts and cosmonauts. "And you will see it on the evening news."

And we just need to get used to that. "If foul-ups and glitches were a valid measure all by themselves, the space-going prowess of the Soviets as Cold War adversaries could have been written off decades ago. Mir is the latest in a series of increasingly sophisticated space stations they have launched to orbit since 1971. The Soviet/Russian space program leads the planet not only in long-duration human spaceflight accomplishments, but also in experience coping with the attendant accidents, setbacks, discom-

forts and failures.

Gen. Thomas Stafford, a veteran Apollo astronaut who heads an independent oversight committee advising NASA on the US-Russian partnership, said, "These people have shown great resiliency over the years in their ability to patch things up and keep going." At around 3 a.m. EDT Friday morning, newly arrived Mir commander Anatoly Soloviyev — the world's most experienced spacewalker — and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov are to start suiting up for the planned "internal spacewalk," which should begin around 5 a.m. EDT, with American astronaut Michael Foale standing by in an attached descent spacecraft.

This is the first of several spacewalks planned over the coming months to restore the crucial electrical power and repair other damage done when an unmanned Progress cargo vessel slammed into the station during a manual docking test on June 25, denting a solar panel and puncturing the new Spektr laboratory module. Officials recently reported that the Progress apparently also grazed the facility's core as well as another lab module, Kvant-1.

The collision occurred as the Russians were testing a new docking system that, a Russian space official said this week, they intend to adapt for use on the planned US-led international space station. Russian officials have attributed the June crash to "human error" by either system developers on

the ground or crew in orbit. Soloviyev has used the same system successfully since his arrival at Mir last week.

Mir seems safe, Stafford said, but to keep the station productive as well, it is "crucial" that the crew restore some of its lost electrical power. They would then be able to accomplish perhaps 85 percent of the planned scientific research — even with Spektr out of commission.

Experts inside and outside NASA say the Russians' track record, their detailed planning and the fact that they have replaced the previous trouble-prone and exhausted Mir crew with a fresh, well-trained pair offers cause for optimism about the chances of success.

Friday's planned repair work aboard Mir is much less complex than, for example, the restoration of the Hubble Space Telescope, according to NASA spacewalk experts. It is "about one-quarter" as difficult as the recovery of Salyut 7, according to John Fabian, a former astronaut now a consultant on US-Russian cooperation.

For decades, with little fanfare, cosmonauts on space stations have been dealing not only with nuisances such as balky computers, sanitation problems, brown residue over their portholes and a broken exercise machine, but an impressive list of crises at least as dramatic as the current one.

See MIR, Page 7

Corruption and smut in small-town America

By STEPHEN BRAUN

OAK GROVE, Ky. — The wooden shack set back on a bleak stretch of highway outside Fort Campbell sells Chinese food now. But in the days when off-duty soldiers and locals paraded through its back rooms, the New Life fitness center was a house of secrets. Most people here had heard the whispers about what went on inside, but no one could have imagined where all those secrets would lead.

The secrets are out now, coursing too quickly for most people in this military-base town of 3,000 to tell the real from the fanciful.

At times it seems as if every prominent man in Oak Grove ducked into the New Life Fitness and Massage Parlor for flings with hostesses who went by such racy monikers as "Harley" and "Mercedes." It Town & Country was stunning enough when Tammy Papler, the convicted madam who called herself Mercedes, raged during a Town Council meeting in mid-July that Oak Grove's police and leaders took bribes, botched an unsolved murder case and sought sexual favors at her now-shuttered massage parlor. "This town is crooked," she barked, "and I've got the paperwork to prove it!" Papler's allegations were quickly disputed by Oak Grove officials.

Michael Burman, the city attorney, questioned her reliability and noted her 1994 arrest for promoting prostitution. "Her allegations shift faster than we can keep up with," Burman said.

Then Harley came forward to second Papler's allegations — and Oak Grove's somnolent civic affairs took on the frenzied air of a backwoods cockfight. Harley turned out to be Patty Belew, 26, a town councilwoman who admitted she had turned tricks for two years at the massage parlor before marrying into one of the community's oldest and largest clans.

Insistent that "the truth has to come out," Belew has lent Papler's corruption charges enough credibility to help spur the FBI and the Kentucky State Police to investigate Oak Grove's government.

But Belew fears her "one moment of standing up" could jeopardize her council seat, her job as a mobile home saleswoman and the affection of her family.

"I feel like that lady in 'Harper Valley P.T.A.,' a weary-eyed Belew said, recalling the 1960s country-song heroine who took on her entire town and won her daughter's admiration by defiantly exposing its pious hypocrites. "I'm just afraid it ain't going to end that way."

That it might not be a reflection of the hard reality of life in American military base towns. Most bases have a tawdry strip nearby where young soldiers can ease their boredom. But when base towns transform into robust communities, depending less on honky-tonk sections for jobs and tax revenue, the adult businesses that prosper there are not so easily uprooted.

Only "a clean sweep" by outside authorities, suggested Hopkinsville Community College history Prof. William T. Turner, a scholar of the area's past, might "get people around here to even start thinking seriously about whether these places are worth keeping in business. The sad thing is they're part of our landscape."

That landscape has been fertile territory for Papler, 29, ever since she opened her massage parlor there in 1991. Two years after police raids forced her to close down New Life in 1994, she opened a video store next door.

Belew's decision to leave the strip in 1994 was a stroke of good fortune. Just weeks after she left, two massage parlor hostesses were found dead, their throats slashed, in one of New Life's back rooms. Soon afterward, Christian County sheriff's deputies raided the parlor and shut it down.

Without any past arrests, Belew was able to land a respectable job. She formed a new family out of the shards of a failed first marriage. And in 1996, she was elected town councilwoman.

It was not until the night of the council meeting on July 15 that Belew felt the facade of her new life start to rip away. When she drove up to the red brick building that serves as Oak Grove's City Hall and Utility Office, she was stunned to see her old bosses, Papler and her husband, Ronnie, waiting in a car.

"What are you doing here?" Belew whispered.

"I'm fixing to go in there and end this," Papler said.

It had been nearly three years since they had seen each other.

While Belew had eased her way into respectability, Papler

was trying to hold onto the middle-class world she made in the ranch house on the Tennessee line she shared with Ronnie and two sons.

The Paplers had plea-bargained after their arrests, serving two years probation. Now Tammy Papler was back on the strip, owner of Cherry Video, a film store renting Disney classics along with an ample inventory of porno flicks.

Oak Grove officials informed her that her store was subject to a new law imposing \$5,000 annual fees on X-rated firms — a steep rise from typical \$50 license fees.

Papler was outraged, a skepticism shared by some observers. "Oak Grove is making money on these places when they should be trying to shut them down," said historian Turner, who is also on the board of the area's largest bank.

Striding into the hall where Belew sat nervously with Oak Grove officials, Papler rose as soon as the call came for the "citizens' portion." Police and officials had employed New Life's prostitutes, she charged. Cops missed evidence left from the unsolved 1994 murders.

One officer, Papler said, "failed a lie detector test" and was a murder suspect (a charge later verified by Christian County's sheriff's Maj. Billy Gloyd, who also noted the Paplers had not been ruled out as suspects). And Papler claimed she was forced to pay money to police and buy them equipment.

"This town ain't got nothing but a bunch of hypocrites," she yelled before being hustled out of the meeting room.

Papler's charges might have been dismissed as pure vengeance if Patty Belew had not come to her defense. Belew says she had little choice. As the July 15 council meeting erupted into chaos, Papler yelled: "If y'all don't believe me, there's other people, OK?" Then she named Belew, saying: "She's one of the most honest people that I know, OK?"

Papler's veiled reference shook Belew. It was only a matter of time before her past became common knowledge to everyone in town. She consulted with Oak Grove officials. But when Burman recommended that she might consider resigning from the council to avoid embarrassment, Belew bridled.

"It was time to stand up," she said. "I wasn't going to be left the only bad person up there." Two days after the meeting, Belew drove to Papler's Tennessee house and defiantly told reporters gathered there that she had worked for two years as a prostitute at Papler's massage parlor.

Belew had joined New Life in November 1991 after answering a classified ad. A retired soldier's daughter, she had no savings and two young daughters from a failed marriage. "I figured I'd stay just a few weeks, long enough to save some money and get a regular job," she says now. "But I started making excuses to myself. The money was too easy. She quit several times, but always returned. Making \$1,500 a week, she was beginning to build a nest egg."

Most of the men she coupled with were "Screaming Eagle" paratrooper trainees from the 101st Airborne across the highway. But there were familiar faces from around town. Some, Belew says, were prominent citizens. Some, Belew says, were local law officers.

She started dating Joe Belew, a member of an old family with deep lines into the area's construction and mobile home business. When marriage became a prospect, she worked up the courage to tell him. Joe felt blindsided, but they stayed together.

After their wedding, Belew fashioned a new life in Oak Grove.

Now there is talk of a recall movement. Her boss put her on a forced sabbatical, and Belew fears that she will not be allowed back.

Still, from the scores of callers who have rung her up late into the night with new tips about town corruption, Belew figures she has some friends left.

"See?" she said, pointing at a passing car that honked in support as she stopped to chat with Papler near her video store. At a nearby bank branch, teller Christine Neiman hailed Belew and Papler as "good women. There's crooked people in every town. Sometimes you need people who've seen it close up to start the ball rolling."

(Los Angeles Times)

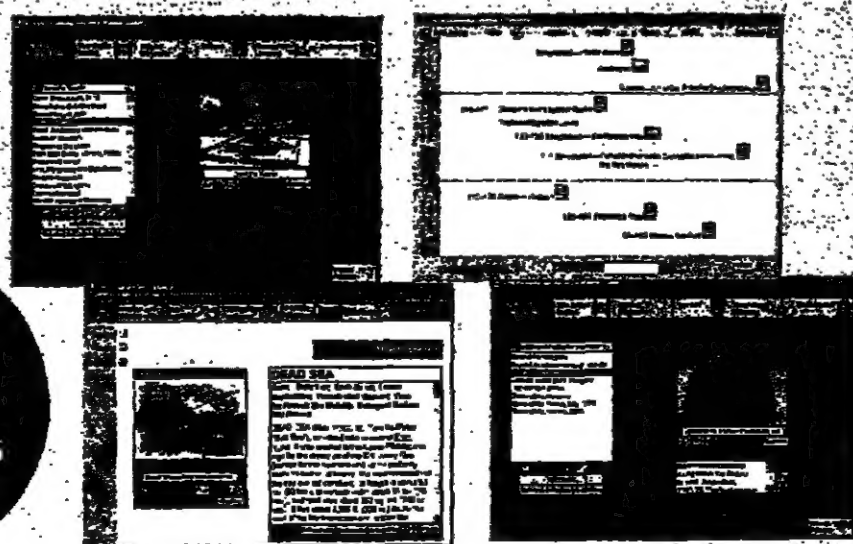
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Abolish the religious councils

The refusal of Ministers Eli Suissa and Zevulun Hammer to carry out a High Court order to confirm the appointment of a Reform Jew to the Netanya Religious Council deals a dangerous blow to the principle of the rule of law in Israel. It also illustrates just one of the reasons why religious councils should be eliminated entirely.

When John F. Kennedy was running for president, many Americans were concerned that the first Catholic president would be beholden to the pope rather than to the American people. Kennedy succeeded in assuring the voters that his oath to the Constitution would, in public matters, stand above even the strongest religious allegiances.

Israel certainly does not share the American tradition of separation of church and state. On the contrary, the integration of religion and state in Israel is almost as central to the state's founding as their separation, and the concept of religious freedom, was to America's founding.

As the nation's 50th birthday approaches, the question of what it means for Israel to be, according to its Declaration of Independence, a "Jewish state" is far from settled. What it clearly does not mean, however, is that Israel should be a theocracy run according to Jewish law.

Hammer and Suissa have every right to resign from the government; they have no right to allow their personal views—religious or otherwise—to override the rule of law. This should hardly be news to Hammer, who is also Education Minister, and bears even more than the usual burden on a minister to set a personal example.

Hammer and Suissa could have approved the appointment of Reform Jew Joyce Brenner to the Netanya Religious Council and immediately introduced legislation that would prohibit such appointments in the future. The ministers' action rather served to increase the conflict between the High Court of Justice and the religious public. By deliberately refusing to follow democratic procedures, the ministers were making a broader statement than the matter of religious councils—they were effectively firing a shot in the sharpening battle between the court

and the religious parties.

In this case, the High Court did not have to go out on a limb to affirm the right of a Reform Jew to sit on a religious council, since the only requirement for membership on a religious council is an "interest" in religious affairs. The claim of the religious parties that the only reason a Reform Jew would want to sit on a religious council is to make a political point can easily be turned back at them. Given that it is acceptable for secular Jews to serve on such councils, the main reason the religious parties have to resist such an appointment is equally political.

In fact, religious councils are all about politics. According to a law that should be changed, each regional council is matched by a religious council of equal size, and the head of each council receives the same salary as the mayor of the city. There is no reason why the work of the religious councils—deciding how to divvy up the budget for synagogues and other religious services—cannot be done by a department within existing local governments. Instead, a bloated parallel bureaucracy has developed, costing the taxpayers hundreds of millions of shekels.

The religious councils have become a bastion of political patronage for two of the religious parties, Shas and the NRP. The law currently provides that 45 percent of the council members are appointed by the Religious Affairs Ministry, 10 percent by the Chief Rabbinate, and 45 percent by the local council. Shas and the NRP cannot have it both ways: they cannot dominate bodies that are supposed to be somewhat representative of the local community, and then deny membership to people that the community legitimately appoints.

Leaders from different parts of the political spectrum, such as Likud MK Meir Sheerit and United Torah Judaism MK Avraham Ravitz, have called for eliminating the religious councils outright. The elimination of the councils would, as a happy by-product, solve the problem of their membership. More importantly, it would not only end a tremendous waste of money, but an embarrassment to anyone who cares about the face that the religious parties present to the public at large.



Where Barak erred

There is no doubt the televised scenes of sacked employees at the Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv will continue to haunt party chairman Ehud Barak for a long time to come, even though the dismissal letters were later withdrawn. If Barak is Labor's candidate in the next elections for prime minister, the Likud will no doubt make maximum use of the personal slurs hurled against him by these people who, until several days ago, were totally devoted to the Labor Party and its leader—whenever he may have been.

It is not difficult to sympathize with employees who have just been sacked. When men and women find themselves out of a job after many years of service, they are naturally upset, worried and frustrated. When this happens in a period of rising unemployment, and those being fired are members of an old-fashioned work force, rapidly becoming obsolete and economically irrelevant, it is not surprising that emotions run even higher than normal, and the atmosphere becomes one of "Let me die with the Philistines."

But there is another side to the story. The Labor Party, like all secular parties in Israel today, is in deep financial straits, and has been for many years. The strict regulations of the Parties Financing Law, make it impossible to continue running these parties as they were in the past—sprawling establishments, able to provide thousands of jobs to cronies and apparatchiks of various descriptions. The primaries system and direct election of the prime minister have made the old structures more or less irrelevant. Labor has the additional prob-

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

lem of having to manage without its old milk-cow—the Histadrut—which under the leadership of Amir Peretz is trying to cope with its own monumental debts, created in the course of years of grievous financial mismanagement, and turn itself once again into an organization which serves those for whom it was created in the first place—the workers. Peretz has already made his position

Barak sadly lacks the human touch

clear: if he has to choose between loyalty to his party or loyalty to the workers, he opts for the latter. Barak, on the other hand, must have a different order of priorities. If he is to become prime minister in the year 2000 or before, and increase Labor's strength in the 15th Knesset, he must put Labor's house in order. This cannot be done when the Labor Party has NIS \$5 million worth of long-term debts hanging around its neck. Under the circumstances, laying off employees, who are no longer relevant—even if unavoidable of their own—is unavailing.

Where Barak erred—and there is no question that he has screwed up royally—is to neglect the human aspect of the affair. In such circumstances, it is not enough to have a sharp intellect, one must also appear to be a mensch. Barak sadly lacks the human touch—the ability to console those in pain, even if he himself cannot offer the remedy. Just as

he did not find it in himself to hold the hand of a wounded soldier at Ze'elim, so he did not find it in himself to personally confront the employees he felt obliged to fire at Labor Party headquarters.

In politics it is not enough just to analyze the situation correctly with a cool head and have the courage to do what has to be done. There is also a need for compassion. If it weren't for this lack of compassion—or some psychological block which prevents Barak from demonstrating compassion—no one would have criticized his conduct following the Ze'elim tragedy, and the fired employees at 110 Hayarkon Street wouldn't have so eagerly provided the Likud with anti-Barak propaganda for the next election campaign.

Barak has a lot to learn from Amir Peretz, who emerged as one of the heroes of the recent fiasco. In the period when he was still head of the Sderot local council (1989-1993), one could not but be impressed with the great efforts he used to invest in talking with the simple folk in his town, familiarizing himself with their personal circumstances and at the same time trying to get an accurate picture of the public mood. As chairman of the Histadrut he has been responsible for the firing of many hundreds of people, but despite the anger and frustration, his personal status and authority have not been harmed.

Does Barak have it in him to learn the lesson and start making the necessary adjustments? All those who care about Labor's electoral prospects should pray that he has.

The writer is a political scientist.

Blood and oil

GWYNNE DYER

It's been a good month for peace in the Caucasus, and that means it's been a good month for oil. Indeed, it's the oil that's driving the peacemaking.

On August 14, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov personally escorted Vladimir Ardzinba, leader of the breakaway republic of Abkhazia, to Tbilisi to sign a "declaration of peace" with Georgia. The declaration neither recognizes the mostly Muslim mini-state's secession from Georgia nor allows the return of the 250,000 Georgian refugees who fled Abkhazia during the independence war of 1992-93, but it forestalls a new round of fighting.

Four days later, in Moscow, President Aslan Maskhadov of Chechnya signed a peace treaty with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, formally ending the war that Yeltsin launched in 1994 to crush Chechen independence.

The 1994 ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan is also holding, so the Caucasus is now safe for the large-scale movement of oil. Just in time, as the first oil from the new oil-fields in the Caspian Sea will come ashore in Azerbaijan within a month.

"The Caspian and Kazakh basins are going to be the major source of world energy in the 21st century," said an official of the US National Security Council two years ago. "The reserves are up there with the Persian Gulf."

All the newly oil-rich countries around the Caspian Sea were once part of the Soviet Union, and all existing pipelines run north through Russia. The first of the new offshore oil from Azerbaijan will move through a pipeline that passes through Chechnya to Novorossiysk on the Black Sea, and thence by tanker to the rest of the world. (This pipeline was badly damaged in the war in Chechnya, but Moscow promises to have it repaired by October.)

The oil drives the peacemaking

Similarly, the first oil from Kazakhstan's Tengiz field is flowing through Russian pipelines to the Black Sea, or else west to Europe via Ukraine and Russia. But this Russian monopoly pleases nobody else, partly for strategic reasons, but also because Moscow deliberately restricts the oil flowing through its pipelines to ensure that all of its own production is sold first.

Now, the simplest way to avoid Russia is to send the new Caspian oil and gas straight south across Iran to the Persian Gulf. Just last May, indeed, Tehran revived an offer to build a pipeline from the Tengiz oilfield to the deep-sea port of Bandar Abbas on the Gulf. But this option is completely anathema to Washington.

The best non-Iranian alternative, from the US point of view, would be one or more pipelines to take oil and gas from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan west across the Caucasus region to world markets. But at this point the plot thickens.

Washington's preferred route involves a big new pipeline through Georgia, then southwest across Turkey to Ceyhan on the Mediterranean, even though this would be an extremely long route crossing several major mountain ranges. Moscow, obviously, prefers further pipelines across Chechnya and Russia to Novorossiysk.

The compromise they reached in 1995 was to build a second pipeline straight west across Georgia (the shortest route) to the Georgian port of Supsa on the Black Sea. That one is supposed to be ready by the end of next year. But there remains the question of where the third and biggest pipeline will go.

The US and Turkey still back Ceyhan. Moscow wants the third pipeline on Russian soil, but once again would probably settle for running it across Georgia (where there are still Russian troops). That's what Russia's recent burst of peace-making in Chechnya and Abkhazia was really about—but will the peace deals stick?

THERE will be peace in the Caucasus for the moment, and soon the oil will flow. Later on there will be at least one war (an Azeri attempt to retake their lost lands), and maybe another (a Georgian reconquest of Abkhazia), but in neither case would the fighting endanger existing pipelines.

And the third pipeline? That will probably follow the route of the second across Georgia to the Black Sea, as a compromise between the politically fraught Russian route and the very costly Turkish route. But one way or another, the oil will get out.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

Sir, — I was appalled to read Abba Eban's op-ed piece (August 15). While it is possible to disagree on the nature of democracy, Eban misstates facts and distorts the issues.

Instead of the US Constitutional Convention "agonizing years" over the issue of executive responsibility, it started on May 25, 1787 and concluded on September 17, 1787 with a document that was ratified on June 21, 1788, less than a year and a month after starting.

It was a forgone conclusion that an elected chief executive would serve with minimum interference by the legislative branch. All of the American states have chosen one of the various forms of democratic government which fix the executive responsibility in an independently elected position. Generally the parliamentary system of choosing the prime minister exists only where there is a monarch to check the dictatorial tendency of systems that combine

legislative and executive responsibility.

Eban cites the African dictatorships that are based on independent executives, but I can cite the examples of Ghana, Zimbabwe, and others in which parliamentary systems support dictatorships. He ignores [the fact] that the sorry state of Zaire started as a parliamentary system which quickly degenerated into chaos. The real test is: does the system work? And so far it has worked very well in Israel.

Eban suggests that there are tainted appointments in this administration, while ignoring that most of these charges have been based on unsubstantiated slander.

Eban calls for the MKs to supersede a democratically elected prime minister. But just who did Alex Goldfarb represent when he voted to continue in office the unpopular Rabin government? And while a person of one ethnic background can represent the

interests of other people, who do Sofa Landver, or Adisu Massale represent? They represent the lost dreams of the Labor Party. The ethnic groups that were supposed to rally to Labor because of them went elsewhere.

Eban says that there is an "intolerable" number of democratically elected parties in the Knesset. This is according to his undemocratic tastes. I rejoice at the expansion of smaller parties which represent the broad interests of the Israeli people. Their election is a rejection of corruption and lack of representation in the traditional parties.

The present system does have problems. The Knesset should concern itself with legislation, oversight, review of treaties, and budgets, and not be able to interfere with the executive except for criminal impeachment.

PINCHAS RICHAHD WIMBERLY

Jerusalem.

MODEL OF PLURALISTIC EXPRESSION

Sir, — We are hard-pressed to begin rebutting Jonathan Rosenberg's preposterous misrepresentation of Women of the Wall. To begin, WOW (Women of the Wall) prays in keeping with an Orthodox interpretation of halacha, in a prayer group, not a minyan. As halachically observant Jews, we are proud that our members include Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Jews from the Left and Right, serving as a model of pluralistic spiritual expression, regrettably seldom seen today in Israel or elsewhere.

The women Mr. Rosenberg claims to have seen "leaning... behind the men's section, singing

at the top of their lungs" were most certainly not from our group. This is never our practice. Rosh Hodesh Av services—which we attended—were no exception. Perhaps he is unaware that it is a common and unopposed practice for women to lean over the barrier to the men's section, vicariously to participate in bar mitzva celebrations and to hear Torah reading. WOW members have no such need, as our own prayer is lively and sustaining. If the state would only allow us also to read from the Torah scroll, an act not prohibited by halacha, we could also fulfill the mitzva of 'talmud torah' during our services.

Certainly Mr. Rosenberg did

not intend to insinuate that our intentions—or those of Conservative or other Jewish groups at the Kotel—are comparable to standing "outside synagogues on Yom Kippur eating ham sandwiches," or "Jews for Jesus." We invite Mr. Rosenberg to observe our prayer carefully and to speak with us in order to amend his view. Rather than "in-your-face" behavior, he will find only women who pray with joy, devotion and sensitivity to their surroundings—a prayer community guided by yirat shamayim.

JESSICA BONN and RACHEL JASKOW
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 26, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that 40,000 German Jews who settled in Palestine by the end of May 1937, no fewer than 30,000 had entered since 1933 without any means of support. They also faced a need for new legal docu-

ments for they were unable to renew their German passports.

50 years ago: On August 26, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the three "floating cages" carrying the 4,400 Exodus 1947 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine

were expected in Gibraltar where the mole had been heavily barricaded. Machine-gun posts had been established as strategic points to prevent any contact with the detainees.

Alexander Zvielli

Mideast bargaining session

BARRY RUBIN

front Netanyahu if he took any action likely to trigger a full confrontation. Israel would lose all the gains made in recent years, returning to the old days of siege, boycott and potential attacks from neighbors. Israelis are well aware that the Palestinians are not going to go away or give up.

In short, each side is quite aware

Only when both sides are convinced they have gotten everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

it cannot impose its preferred solution on the other. The only solution is compromise.

THERE are still wide disagreements—though far narrower than in the past—between Israel and the Palestinians. Arafat wants an independent state in all the West Bank and Gaza, with its capital in East Jerusalem. Netanyahu wants a Palestinian autonomous entity in part of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with that section of the city remaining under Israeli control.

Mistrust is also a serious factor: Israelis must believe that a change in the status quo will improve their safety and situation from the threat of Palestinian terrorism; Palestinians must believe that Israel is willing to change the status quo.

These differences will not be resolved easily. But eliminating parts of the gap are far easier. Given these realities, Israeli and Palestinian strategy is quite clear. As eager as the two sides are to

avoid a complete breakdown, they are in no hurry to sign a treaty. By showing toughness, each tries to win concessions, show its commitments they have obtained the best possible deal and win outside support to pressure the other side. In short, this is a protracted Mideast bargaining session. Only when both sides are convinced they have gotten everything possible and that further delays risk a much worse situation will they move forward.

Missed opportunities and human costs make this regrettable. But since the stakes are so high—in a word, survival—it is not so irrational as distant observers may think. The same pattern of events has been repeated at each stage of the process. And it will continue until the conflict is resolved in 1999—as scheduled by the Oslo agreements—or later.

But, just as surely, the day will come when there will be peace.

The writer is senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. © Newsday

POSTSCRIPT

KEREN HAYESOD'S magazine in Sweden, Menorah, ran this item recently, sent to us by Heinrich Israel Pollack of Jerusalem:

"Saudi Arabia has now paid heed to complaints [of lack of recognition of Israel in Arabic encyclopedias], and left space for Israel in one of the 30 volumes of The Global Arabic Encyclopedia."

"In this work of 16,000 pages, the place bestowed to Israel has the following lines: 'Israel is a state created on May 14, 1948, on Arabic-Palestinian soil with the help of international powers. The population is alien and strangers to the land of Palestine.'"

Anyway, nice that we've been noticed.

BOOK REVIEW



Where have all the towering matriarchs gone? Why are contemporary women such fools by comparison? If Erica Jong knows, she isn't telling. (Erwin Schenkelsbach)

Fear of failing

By KAREN KARBO

INVENTING MEMORY: A Novel of Mothers and Daughters by Erica Jong. New York: HarperCollins. 305 pp. \$25.

In Erica Jong's affable new multigenerational novel, Sarah Solomon Levi'sky informs her own girl, Salome, of the truth about mothers and daughters: "Daughters grow up and beat their fists against the breast that suckled them. The more they beat, the more they beat."

It's one of life's enduring truths: Boys attend sporting events where they brandish hand-painted signs that say "Hi, Mom!" while daughters just roll their eyes and despise you.

The satisfying conceit of *Inventing Memory* is that the novel is a compilation of diary entries, letters, newspaper articles and oral history transcriptions assembled by the youngest female Levi'sky, a historian named Sara, who discovers the women in her family through a trove of documents stashed in a vault in New York.

The matriarch, Sara's great-grandmother, is Sarah Solomon, who gains passage to America in 1905 only because her twin brother, who has already bought the precious steamer ticket, is murdered by Cossacks before he can get away. On the journey to Ellis Island, Sarah falls in love with an asthmatic upper-class WASP, Sim Coppley, who has developed a fascination with "the Hebrews."

Their shipboard romance initially goes nowhere, and after Sarah arrives in New York she is absorbed into life on the Lower East Side, where Lev Levi'sky hires her as a "gossip painter" at his art studio. Over time, though, she becomes acquainted with Sim, who arranges for Sarah to paint portraits of the aristocratic set. Sarah moves between Levi'sky, her mentor, and Sim, her lover — between the anarchists and high society.

This is rich material, brimming with trenchant observations about the eternal man-woman thing.

The eight-page New York Times Weekly Review including US and world news and views, business, arts and crossword distributed free with THE JERUSALEM POST every Monday

There are also some luscious secondary characters, like the Irish picture fakers Flet and Cooney, who insist on pronouncing their names as if they were French.

IF THERE is a disappointment in *Inventing Memory* it is that each subsequent generation of Levi'sky women is less and less vital; they are like faces of faces of faces. Sarah's daughter, Salome, a flapper who makes the pilgrimage to Paris in the late Twenties to become an avant-garde writer, has intermittent bouts of genius and chutzpah, and her daughter, the ethereal Sally Sky,

If there is a disappointment in *Inventing Memory* it is that each subsequent generation of Levi'sky women is less and less vital; they are like faces of faces of faces.

whom we're meant to envision as a Sixties female rock icon, is treacherous in a way that is depressingly familiar. The historian, Sara, may have inherited some of the meek of her namesake, but her story is just beginning when the book ends.

In fairness to Jong, this may be exactly her point. Our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, unliberated women whose lives were

fashioned by years of compromise, nevertheless possessed an unrelenting toughness and verve that too many of us seem to lack. Sarah Solomon, who through the course of the novel grows very old and very rich, articulates the problem:

"Nothing's too good for them. Interest rates they worry about — and development, deals and final cut. They collect first editions, Georgian silver, polo ponies, contemporary art. They accumulate heavy things that cannot be moved in a pogrom. This is a measure of how secure they feel. They do not expect that the Jews will be trapped in Bessie's Canyon as in the Warsaw ghetto... They are complacent, their troubles are psychological."

Where have all the towering matriarchs gone? Why are contemporary women such fools by comparison? If Jong knows, she isn't telling. But she has some advice, delivered in the form of another letter, this one from Salome to her own daughter, the drifty Sally: "If you are ever in a bad moment in your life and you feel that you cannot go on, remember that you are the daughter of a woman who was the daughter of a woman who believed that strength came from accepting the contradictions of life rather than pretending life had no contradictions."

Not an answer, but a bit of Mom's advice is often just as good. (New York Times)

Karen Karbo's most recent book is a memoir, *Big Girl in the Middle*, written with Gabrielle Reece.

US students warned of rape-drug threat

Amid an alarming rise in the use of so-called "rape drugs," Attorney General Janet Reno recently helped launch a national effort to warn college students of the dangers of two powerful substances that sexual predators use to knock out their victims before attacking them.

Appearing at the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center in California, Reno outlined a campaign to flood college campuses with posters and other written information explaining the dangers of the drugs — Rohypnol and GHB — and to air public service announcements on NBC this fall.

A few years ago, the drugs were practically unknown. Now, about seven women a month report to the Santa Monica center alone that they have been drugged and sexually assaulted, said Gail Abarbanel, the center's director.

The spread of the rape drugs, Reno said, reverses the trauma most rape victims suffer. Often, they are unable to forget how they suffered at the hands of a rapist. In rape drug cases, they

are unable to remember. "It's time for everyone in America to wake up to the threat," Reno said.

Reno's appearance underscored the breadth of a problem that is frustrating police, hospitals and rape victims. The two drugs — both odorless, nearly tasteless and potentially lethal — have become

worry about a victim's screams attracting attention." Just as the drugs immobilize rape victims, they also tend to paralyze investigations of sex crimes. Often, victims who have been knocked out with rape drugs wake up unsure of what happened. They may dismiss the assault without reporting it.

"These drugs make it very easy for rapists to commit their crimes. The rapist doesn't have to use physical force."

figures at parties and clubs in recent years. But many investigators and laboratories still are struggling to understand, trace, and prosecute crimes involving these

"These drugs make it very easy for rapists to commit their crimes," Abarbanel said. "The rapist doesn't have to use physical force. He doesn't even have to threaten harm to subdue the victim, and he doesn't have to

Rather than hesitate, victims must report the crime and seek medical attention immediately. Abarbanel said because the drugs can leave the system within hours. Even then, victims may wind up dealing with doctors or investigators unfamiliar with the drugs.

As part of the campaign launched by Reno, the rape treatment center is distributing posters, fliers, even booklets to colleges in 32 states in time for fall semester. That material offers tips on

how to avoid being drugged and how to respond if a sexual assault is suspected.

But for women like Leilani, 20, it is already too late. As a sophomore returning to a local college last fall, Leilani was invited to a frat party — a place where she hoped to catch up with friends after having spent the summer at home. Not long after she arrived, a young man offered her a drink. She drank it — and blanked out almost instantly.

When she awoke, it was morning. Her pants were unzipped. She had been sexually assaulted. She reported the crime immediately, but no physical evidence. Her case was never prosecuted.

Asked whether the new campaign would affect college students, Leilani said, "I don't know if I would've paid attention. But seeing something like that would have helped me know where to go for treatment." She added that she believes the drugs are "prevalent" on college campuses. "I know it's out there," she said. "I know it's a danger." (AP)

Not Private Benjamin

Yulia Belikova will make history twice this month at Virginia Military Institute. Besides being one of the 32 freshman women whose enrollment at VMI will end the college's 158-year male-only policy, she will also be the school's first Russian student.

After spending six months as an exchange student at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington last year, she returned to her hometown of Krasnodar, a Russian city of 650,000 people, where she lived in a one-bedroom apartment with her parents and two brothers. In the spring, she took English and French courses at Kuban State University.

Then she got an eye-popping letter from VMI: an offer of a full academic scholarship plus alumni assistance for travel between Lexington and Krasnodar. "I was so happy, so happy," she said.

After attending the American high school, Belikova, 18, realized that attending college in America was an impossible dream, given her family's annual income of \$2,500. But VMI, which had obtained her name and address because she once expressed interest in attending a military college or an English school, invited her to apply. It came in November. She did. In April, a second letter arrived, congratulating her on her "appointment to the Institute."

Her appointment once had been just as unimaginable for VMI as for Belikova. In 1990, the Justice Department sued VMI, challenging its all-male admission policy. For six years, the military school fiercely resisted coeducation, claiming that the presence of women would fundamentally change VMI's character of harsh discipline and spartan living conditions. But in June 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the school's admission policy was unconstitutional.

Belikova will be one of two foreign women at the school; the other student is from Taiwan. "She was an outstanding applicant," said Col. N. Michael Bissell, who has directed the school's preparations for accommodating women. "I told her that she has a big role to be the recruiter for Russia so we can continue this lineage and get more people to come here."



Jen Jolin (center), one of 32 females enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute, is yelled at by a cadet during the school's "rat line" training. This year marked the end of the college's 158-year male-only policy. (AP)

Belikova intends to major in international relations, and she says she would like to work as a scientific translator after graduation — the career she was pursuing at Kuban State. Like many of the incoming women, Belikova is

reluctant to discuss the Rat Line — VMI's tough physical and emotional testing of its freshmen — fearing that comments she makes will draw the attention of upperclassmen who enforce the line. "This is a new experience and it is

something very interesting," she said. "I know it's going to be difficult but I will try."

Similarly, she dismisses queries about buzz-cutting her fine blonde hair on the day she enrolls. "It will grow again," she said. (AP)

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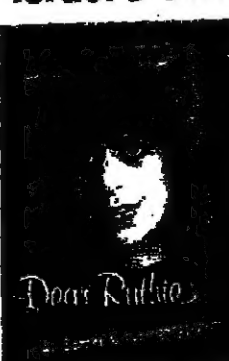
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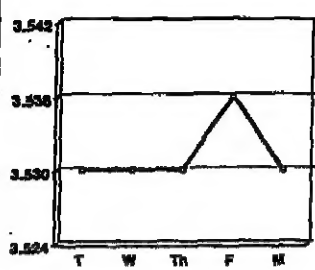
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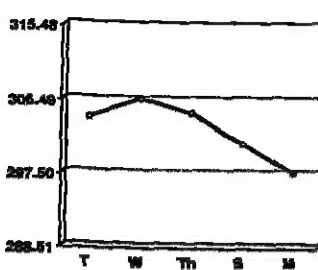
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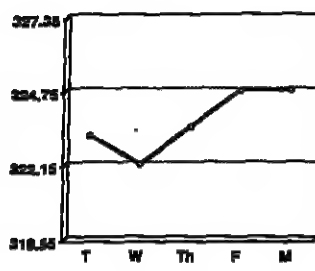


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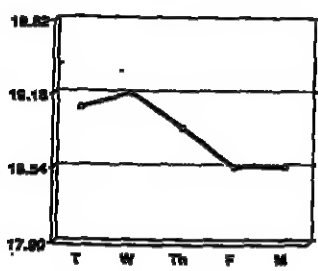
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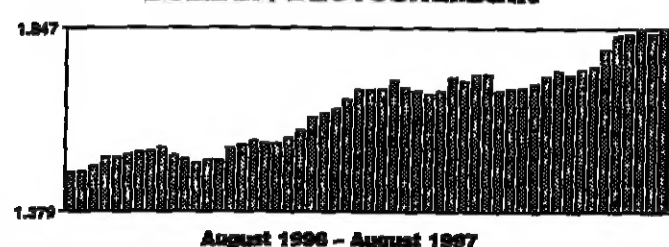


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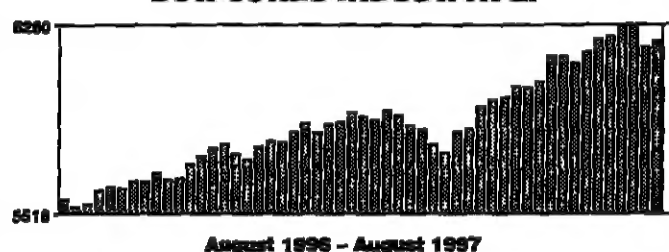
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



KLA-Tencor to expand Israel

KLA-Tencor Corp. will expand its activities in Israel, hiring an additional 25 employees (mostly engineers) and adding another 1,200 square meters to its Migdal Ha'Emek factory. KLA-Tencor management and process monitoring systems are used in the manufacture of semiconductors. The company's local subsidiary currently employs 130 people. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Bank of Israel raises rates by 0.7%

By FELICE MARRANZ

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday it will raise interest rates by 0.7 percentage point to 13.4 percent, effective Thursday. It was the first time in 14 months the central bank lifted the rate at which it lends to banks.

The increase was above expectations and is likely to prompt declining share prices, said analysts, who expected the central bank to lift rates by 0.3 percentage point.

"It was a bad decision - what's changed here in two months? There's no justification for lowering rates 1.2 percentage points and then raising them 0.7 percentage point two months later," said Zvi Hoffman, manager of mutual funds at Meitav Ltd., a

Tel Aviv investment firm. "The stock market will drop tomorrow."

The Bank of Israel cut its benchmark interest rate 1.2 percentage points to 12.7 in June, after the government announced economic plans including a wider trading range for the shekel and a budget cut.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's Maof Index of 25 issues closed down 1.18% at 297.43 points before the central bank announced the new interest rates.

The decision to raise rates came amid figures pointing to an increase in inflation, the central bank said in a statement, including "increases in recent months and in expectations for the future."

July's consumer price index increase of 1% brought annual projected inflation to

10.5%, higher than the government's target of 7-10% for the year. And Israel's money supply rose 5.4 percent in July from June, its biggest increase in three years.

At the same time, growing unemployment and a slowdown in the economy had led to expectations the central bank would not raise rates as much as it said it will.

The central bank acknowledged slower growth in its statement, saying it "enables the Bank of Israel to act to achieve the inflation goal with lower interest rates than those required given the amount of demand in the economy."

The rate of unemployment rose to 7.6% in the second quarter, the highest rate in three years, while gross domestic product in the second quarter grew at an annual rate

of 1.6%, lagging behind the government's recently reduced forecast.

Last month, the Finance Ministry cut the country's projected growth in 1997 to 2.5% from an earlier estimate of 4%.

Higher rates hurt companies, which pay more for expansion, cutting into profits. Higher rates also tend to attract investors out of equities and into fixed-income investments and bank deposits.

That can boost demand for the shekel and strengthen the currency against foreign currencies. This in turn can hurt exporters because their products become more expensive overseas, as they pay expenses in shekels and earn revenue in weaker foreign currency. *(Bloomberg)*



Talk of the trade

Two traders have a discussion at the Frankfurt bourse yesterday, the 30-share DAX index ended the session down 14.22 points at 4,079.21 points after the market tried to rally following Friday's nearly four percent drop. *(Reuters)*

2nd quarter housing starts down 21%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The number of housing starts dropped by 21 percent during the first half of the year in comparison with last year's second half, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In all, the January-June period saw 22,270 housing starts as opposed to 28,350 during the previous half, and 24,520 during the first six months of 1996.

In recent months developers, economists and contractors have been debating the depth of the slowdown in the real-estate market. Analysts said that yesterday's data leave unanswered the question of whether the market, which boomed during the decade's first half in response to the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, has already bottomed out.

"The government gave more money to building in the public sector in the second quarter of this year compared to last year," said Neumann. In the April-June period, the number of housing starts rose to 11,600 from 10,670 in the same period last year.

In the first six months of the year, housing starts dropped by 9% to 22,270, compared to 24,520 in the same six-month period last year, the CBS reported.

In the second half of 1996, housing starts totaled 28,350.

In the January-to-June period, the private sector began building 14,720 new homes, while the public sector started 7,550 units.

In the first six months of the year, 25,490 new housing units - 17,270 in the private and 8,220 in the public sector - were completed. At the end of June, 88,700 housing units - 52,400 private and 36,300 public - were under construction, compared to 96,600 at the end of December and 93,900 at the end of June 1996.

In the first half of the year, building starts were concentrated on 4.6 million meters of land, compared to 5.1 million meters in the same period last year, a 10% drop.

Seventy-seven percent of all the land allocated for new building was designated for housing.

Florida settles tobacco lawsuit for \$11.3b.

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (Bloomberg) - The US tobacco industry will pay the state of Florida \$11.3 billion to settle a lawsuit seeking to recover money spent on treating sick smokers, the state said yesterday.

The industry will be required to pay \$200 million of the settlement by September 15 for an anti-smoking campaign, and \$1 billion within the first year of the agreement, the state said. Top tobacco executives gave depositions in Florida's law-

suit against the industry last Thursday and Friday.

The settlement of the Florida case gives the industry more time to win Congressional approval of its \$368.5 billion national settlement of litigation brought by states and smokers. Texas's lawsuit against the industry is scheduled to begin in late September, followed by Minnesota's lawsuit in January.

"Without question, it makes a national settlement easier," said tobacco industry analyst David

Adelman of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Discover. Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles announced the agreement in state circuit court in West Palm Beach yesterday morning.

President Bill Clinton is reviewing the national pact, and is expected to issue his opinion of it in September. His support is seen as crucial to gaining the support of Congressional Democrats. Florida is the second state to settle with the industry, joining Mississippi, which

in July announced it will receive about \$3.6 billion.

Both state settlements would be superseded by the proposed national agreement, which addresses not only state actions, but individual lawsuits as well. It includes marketing restrictions and stipulations for federal regulation of the industry.

Morgan Stanley's Adelman said the industry may use the Florida and Mississippi settlements as leverage against making further concessions on the national agree-

ment. "The anxiety level should come down as the industry settles these high-risk cases," he said. "If I were an anti-tobacco lawmaker in another state, I wouldn't want the industry to be settling these cases. I would want their feet to be held to the fire, and I would want them to lose."

As part of the Florida pact, the industry will concede that nicotine is addictive and that cigarettes kill, the state said. The agreement will also require the industry to remove immediately any cigarette billboards within 1,000 feet of schools and to remove other cigarette billboards "within the next few months."

The industry also promised to remove cigarette vending machines from any place accessible to children and will take down tobacco advertising in sporting arenas and on public buses and trains.

Florida is seeking \$12.3 billion in its lawsuit. Industry spokesmen could not be reached for comment. The shares of New York-based RJR, which makes Camel and Winston cigarettes, were unchanged Friday at 35 5/16 in New York. Philip Morris shares fell 7/16 to 44 5/16.

The Florida agreement, which was first reported by the Palm Beach Post this morning, comes after the chairman of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. and Philip Morris Cos. last week conceded that smoking may have caused deadly diseases such as cancer. They made those statements during depositions in the Florida lawsuit.

On Friday, RJR Chairman Steven Goldstone said during a deposition smoking "plays a part" in causing cancer. That comment came a day after Philip Morris chairman Geoffrey Bible said nicotine is a drug and that thousands of Americans "might have" died from smoking-related diseases.

Tobacco industry analysts and investors said last week that they expect Florida and the tobacco companies to settle the lawsuit, pending the approval of the national settlement by Congress.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.8.97)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7435	3.8039	-	3.7724
U.S. dollar	3.5028	3.5593	3.44	3.5310
German mark	1.9227	1.9838	1.88	1.9364
Pound sterling	5.6205	5.7112	5.52	5.602
French franc	0.5704	0.5797	0.58	0.5748
Japanese yen (100)	2.9653	3.0132	2.91	2.9860
Dutch florin	1.7075	1.7351	1.67	1.7198
Swiss franc	2.3391	2.3708	2.29	2.3511
Swedish krona	0.4402	0.4474	0.43	0.4438
Norwegian krona	0.4811	0.4886	0.45	0.4839
Denish krona	0.5047	0.5129	0.49	0.5083
Finnish mark	0.8428	0.8532	0.83	0.8475
Canadian dollar	2.5201	2.5606	2.47	2.5396
Australian dollar	2.6210	2.6633	2.57	2.6414
S. African rand	0.7482	0.7603	0.67	0.7528
Belgian franc (10)	0.6312	0.6463	0.61	0.6377
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7324	2.7765	2.68	2.7518
Italian lira (1000)	1.9895	2.0013	1.83	1.9851
Jordanian dinar	4.8369	5.0188	4.87	4.9787
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.0048
ECU	3.7775	3.8385	-	3.8038
Irish punt	5.1297	5.2125	5.04	5.1680
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2736	2.3103	2.23	2.2904

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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LEHMAN BROTHERS

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ADAMS, HARKNESS & HILL, INC.

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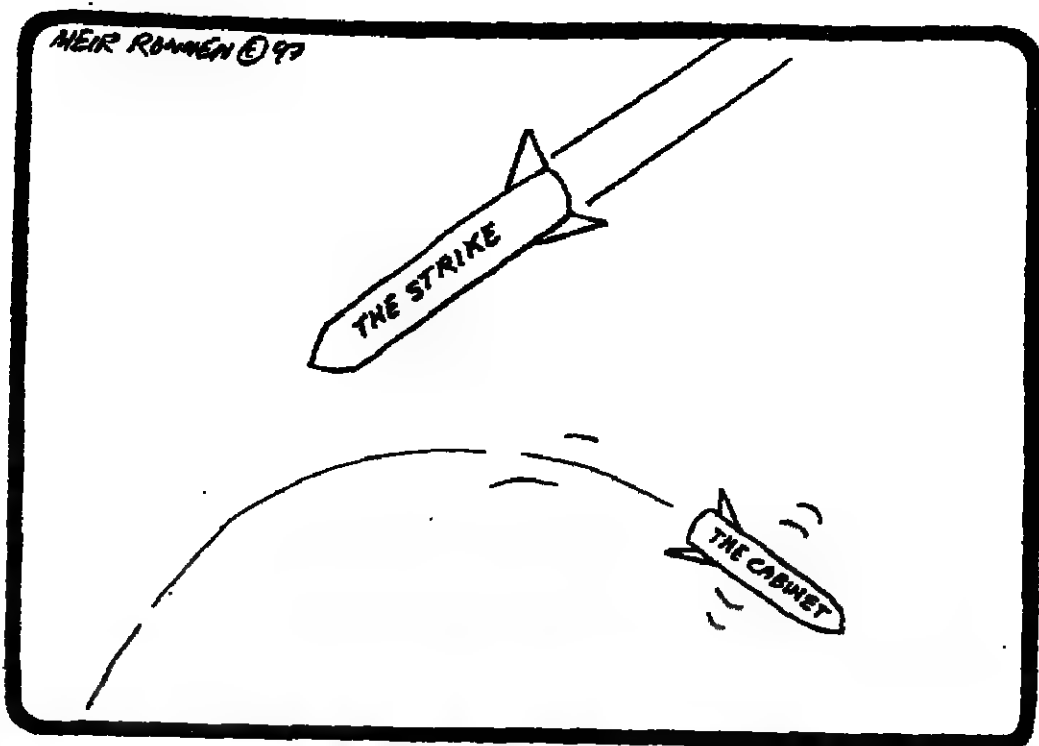
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Holding their heads high

In the face of heavy competition from South Africa, Israeli ostrich producers have earned a worldwide reputation for high quality products

By NICKY BLACKBURN

A popular legend would have it, the founding of Israel's ostrich industry was a cloak-and-dagger-style operation which even the Mossad would have been proud of. In 1982, so the story goes, a Dutch-Israeli made the trip to South Africa, the largest ostrich producer in the world, bought some eggs and furtively smuggled them back into Israel. In due time, the eggs hatched, and lo, a new industry was born.

The real story, however, is sadly a little more dull. True, the industry was founded when an Israeli brought back eggs from South Africa, but there was nothing illegal about the transaction.

Fabricated though the story is, like all myths, it imparts an important message: a potent mixture of Israeli chutzpa and initiative helped found what has, within a very short time, turned into a highly successful industry.

In less than 15 years, Israel has become the world's second largest producer of ostriches after South Africa and a leading pioneer in the field. Admittedly, compared to South Africa, which slaughters 200,000 ostriches a year for skins and meat, Israel, which killed just 14,000 in 1996, doesn't seem like much. But Israel only began slaughtering birds in 1991, having built up its industry knowledge and experience in just five years.

At present there are only two Israeli companies selling ostrich meat and skin commercially on the international market. These are Os.Co., the Israel Ostrich Company Ltd., a vertically integrated outfit in Ofakim and Zemach Ostriches Ltd., a collective on the shores of the Sea of the Galilee. Zemach is the largest producer of ostriches in Israel today. There are a few other ostrich farms in the south of the country, but these will only begin slaughtering and selling ostrich products in the next few years.

Os.Co., the recipient of those South African eggs, was the first company to begin farming ostriches. For the first 10 years, however, it only sold eggs, chicks and breeding stock to zoos or other farms.

In 1984, Kibbutz Haon bought some chicks from Os.Co. and set up an ostrich farm as a tourist attraction. Owners soon recognized the business potential and two years later Haon approached nine other kibbutzim in the area, and together they set up a new company, Zemach.

"Our first target was to develop the farm's infrastructure, but we didn't want to concentrate only on skins, which were the mainstay of the industry. We wanted to look at eggs and meat as well," says Yakov Or, director of Zemach Ostriches, whose office is filled with ostrich mementos such as painted eggs, posters and even a miniature model ostrich.

At that time there was little information available on ostrich farming, and none was applicable to Israel. There was also, initially, no possibility of cooperation with South Africa. "Later on, when things opened up, we found South Africa couldn't help us anyway," says Or. "They farm extensively, not intensively like us, and conditions are totally different. In South Africa everything is based on cheap labor. We don't have that advantage."

The first department set up by Zemach was in R&D. To help it along, Israel's Office of the Chief Scientist donated money for research at Israeli universities. This was not a success, however, and when the money ran out, Zemach still had a long way to go. "We hardly achieved anything from this work because everything was so new that scientists were working in the dark," says Or.

The only answer was trial and error. "We taught ourselves stage by stage," says Or. It was a laborious and difficult process. There are many periods when ostriches, which even in the wild have difficulty raising chicks to adulthood, are particularly vulnerable.

For example, when the farm first opened, only 60 percent of fertile eggs survived. Today 80% survive. Another dangerous period is during the first two months, when whole farms can be wiped out. "For the first three or four years we lost about 60% of our chicks in this period. Today it's only 15%," says Or.

One way Zemach has dealt with these problems is by computerization of the breeding facility. Today every egg and chick that hatches is labeled with a bar code so that employees have instant information on parentage and breeding performance. "This way we can choose the best breeding stock for the future," says Or. Today Zemach, which is the only ostrich farm in the world to use this system, has one of the highest global fertility rates.

In exploring the potential market, Zemach focused on two areas: skin and meat. Skin is the most lucrative market. Between 68%-70% of a bird's total income comes from its skin, which is used in high fashion by design houses such as Hermes, Gucci and Christian Dior. Ostrich skin products fetch high prices. A small handbag, for example, will cost over \$4,000.

Since there are no companies in Israel that tan exotic skins, Zemach tried for some years to do it by itself. The experiments were a complete failure.

As a result, in 1991, the year the company first began exporting abroad, Zemach signed an agreement with French company Gordon Choisy, a world leader in the tanning of exotic skins. Today Zemach sends its skins to France where they are tanned and then distributed around the world by Gordon Choisy under Zemach's brand name.

In the field of meat, however, Zemach has helped revolutionize

high. Each Israeli bird brings in a net income of between \$620-650, \$230 for meat and \$400 for skin. In South Africa each bird brings in only about \$300.

There are no guarantees, however. Ostrich skin may have been a mainstay of the high fashion industry for 40 years, but fashion is unpredictable and things change. "It's difficult to forecast what the market will be or how many skins it can use in future," admits Or. "It's guess work basically."

Eran Hillman, general manager of Os.Co., agrees. "One of the big questions we have to ask ourselves is what will happen if skin prices fall. Maybe people won't buy it anymore, because it'll lose its snob value. Should we lose this market for the middle-class section?"

Most industry experts believe, however, that meat prices and demand will remain steady.

Aside from some 20 restaurants across Israel that offer ostrich meat on their menus, all the meat and skin produced in

ergy to cooperation."

"Our competition is overseas not here," adds Or.

Despite all this optimism, there are problems. "South Africa has learned a lot from us," says Or. "This worries us, but we're making an effort to improve ourselves. For 100 years South Africa didn't develop its meat production, now it's using our categories and cuts. At the same time though, we're introducing the next generation. We plan to always stay one step ahead."

"We're the tail that wags the dog," says Hillman. "Today our meat commands better prices on the European market than South African meat, but we have to find our own niches by giving customers the right service, packaging and sizing, as well as quality."

"We are still small compared to South Africa but with our knowledge we can compete," adds Or. "There are two different ways of developing. South Africa builds with cheap labor, we do it through



R. NOWITZ

BITS & BYTES

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Bosch announces \$2 million local investment: German conglomerate Bosch has announced that its telecom division will purchase a 5 percent stake in Israeli start-up TranSky for \$2m. TranSky's data and telecommunications applications complement Bosch Telecomm's network products. The deal represents Bosch's first direct investment in Israel.

High-tech conference set for Sept.: The North Carolina-Israel High-Tech Conference will be held at the Microelectronics Center in North Carolina in late September. About 30 Israeli firms will participate, meeting with their American counterparts in the areas of information technology, telecommunications and biotechnology. Organizers expect the meeting will lead to several joint ventures and cooperation agreements.

InterSystems increases Israel activities: InterSystems, one of the 10 leading database vendors in the world, has announced that it is increasing its activity in the Israeli market. The company said it aims to provide better support through a direct link with its

Israeli partners and customers. InterSystems is the world leader in creating databases that process large amounts of transactions, in real time.

Mennen-Medical and Reshuma announce software system for catheterization wards: Mennen-Medical, an Israeli company specializing in medical monitoring equipment, has recently finished developing Clinibase, a software system designed for the management of hospitals' catheterization wards. The system was developed with the Israeli software house Reshuma, a member of the Amn Computers Group, and allows catheterization wards to manage all administrative functions, including scheduling appointments and handling data. The software system also enables the hospital to produce various statistical reports that can be used for research purposes.

Microsoft adopts Ephyx's technology: Microsoft has adopted Ephyx's hyperlinked video technology to be used as part of Microsoft NetShow. The technology will provide Microsoft with the ability to create links inside a

video, which allow a viewer to interact with the information on the screen. For example, a Ephyx's V-Active allows a viewer of a video sequence about surfing to get additional information about surfboards by clicking on the surfboard image in the video.

Novell to buy Israeli technologies: During a recent visit to Israel, Novell's South European vice-president announced that the company intends to purchase cutting-edge Israeli technologies in the telecommunications and Internet fields. Novell Israel recently announced the establishment of a technological center that will be comprised of a number of Israel's leading computer and telecommunications companies.

Shaked develops bovine monitoring system: Shaked Wireless Control is developing a bovine monitoring system designed to prevent the theft or escape of dairy cows. The system sends out warning signals upon intrusion or escape and it can also monitor the particular habits of each cow in the herd. Shaked is also developing monitoring systems for high-risk populations including babies and the elderly.

SMART SHOPPING

Leaders of the packs

It's back to school, and students are scrambling to be seen in the market's coolest knapsacks

By RACHEL NEWMAN

You see them every September. Children, laden down like pack mules with their spanking new knapsacks, following the trail to school. And while parents may actually be concerned with their child's education, children are far more worried on that first day with how cool they look.

Backpack style changes according to the age of the school-yard set. The rule of thumb is that younger kids want product-licensed characters from TV or the movies; preadolescent girls want sets, meaning matching backpack, notebooks and pens; and teenagers want cool brand names like trendy Kipling, or rough and ready Jansport, depending on the image they're trying to convey.

This year, Dutch company Kipling set the standard with bright colored bags in all shapes and sizes, fabricated from washable crinkle nylon. Despite the unstructured appearance, some Kipling packs are outfitted with back supports. The ergonomic model, which is engineered with the human body in mind, is priced at NIS 369, while another model, with a padded, rigid back, costs NIS 349. But since the main attraction to Kipling is the name itself, teens may be satisfied sporting a purse-sized baby backpack for accessories - Kipling logo displayed prominently - while carrying their books in their arms, à la Beverly Hills 90210.

Local company Gal Ram has made good use of the crinkle, stone-washed nylon craze in producing its Bag & Best and Freedom lines, which feature solid designs and sturdy zippers in 12 colors. The prices are reasonable, at NIS 119-NIS 149, and the resemblance, which means hyper-fashion-conscious teenagers can expect an argument from their parents, who will undoubtedly be leaning toward the lower-priced local alternative.

It seems like everyone wants to get in on the pack act. Kipling, famous for its polypropylene folders and its kid cases, has supplemented its kid cases and teen lines with stylish adult packs. These include the bright yellow Froggy line, the rainbow-colored Colors line and the more sophisticated Forest and Dune

lines. All sets include matching notebooks, pencil box, loose-leaf binders and a mini-picture album.

Lured by the NIS 120 million a year back-to-school market, the Hamashbir department store decided to enter in a big way, offering a vast range of supplies, including backpacks (some with orthopedic support). The store has local brand names such as Modan and Kal-bag, and not so well-known brands such as fashion-oriented Taz, whose bags range in design from plaids to jeans to fluorescent, priced at NIS 99-NIS 189.

Hamashbir head of marketing Meira Gazit says the store chose to focus on school bags due to their "transformation into a fashion accessory, which takes direction from other fashion accessories."

In line with this philosophy, Hamashbir has also stocked up on those garments deemed an absolute must by the underaged: overalls, jeans, T-shirts, sunglasses, bandannas, etc.

But fashion, of course, shouldn't be the only consideration. Health experts recommend carrying heavy school books in a backpack, not in a bag slung over one shoulder, to prevent twisting or uneven pressure on growing spines. Shoulder-strap backpacks weigh down one side of the body, pulling the spine to one side, and in worst case scenarios, cause a structural imbalance by making one shoulder higher than the other.

A properly carried backpack is fitted to the back and balanced to the body's center of gravity. Kids should be instructed on how to arrange items evenly inside the pack, as proper weight distribution lessens back strain. They should also tighten straps. A heavy backpack that hangs too low can injure the lower back by increasing the curvature of the lumbar region.

This year, orthopedic is the watchword for Israel's knapsack market. Kal-bag, which specializes in orthopedic support packs, has decided to focus on the primary school market, offering bags emblazoned with 101 Dalmatians, Hercules, Minnie Mouse and other Disney characters, and are priced at NIS 150-NIS 180. Stitched inside the back of the bag are flexible aluminum supports, a method approved by the Standards Institution of Israel.

Tikel of Moshav Nehalim both

imports and manufactures orthopedic-support backpacks, featuring interactive cartoon hero Hugo or Barbie. For the older set, Tikel offers Kipling-esque crinkle fabric or faux leather. Tikel bags are priced between NIS 70 and NIS 100.

Modan has licensed the Superman image for use on backpacks that are part of a product line called *Lalache Im Gan Zakuf* (walk with a straight back). The company says this patented orthopedic line was developed over a six year period, from a \$9m investment. Earlier this summer the company announced it would be exporting \$200,000 in *Gav Zakuf* bags to South Africa.

Modan says the *Gav Zakuf* backpack ensures an even distribution of weight along the length and breadth of the back. The rear of the pack is made of four layers of fabric without internal metal supports, which Modan claims eventually bend out of shape and lose their orthopedic qualities. The straps are positioned low, which Modan says helps take pressure off the neck and also helps in weight distribution. The *Gav Zakuf* line has been approved by the Standards Institution of Israel in regard to waterproofing, color resistance, stitching quality and shoulder-strap quality, and is recommended by the Israel Chiropactors Association.

For kids up to five years of age, Modan offers the non-orthopedic Inbarim line, emblazoned with Superman, Batman, Barbie, Looney Tunes characters and others. The inside is divided into two sections, with outside pockets specially fitted for half-liter water bottles. This series can be carried both on the shoulders or with one hand, using the handle.

Modan has also used orthopedic technology in the Dynamic line, which is geared toward the slightly older, bicycle-riding set, and is outfitted with an internal aluminum support. The main advantage of the pack's rigid back is that there are few points of contact with the back. It touches mainly the hips, freeing up the spine and shoulders for maximum ventilation. The backpack is priced at NIS 279.99, and there's also a matching hip-pack, priced at NIS 229.99, designed to carry two bottles of water and essentials.

the industry. For years, South Africa considered ostrich meat merely a by-product of the skins and sold it off cheaply. Israeli researchers discovered, however, that unlike red meat, which ostrich meat closely resembles in taste and texture, ostrich is extremely low in fat and cholesterol, two very important elements for today's health-conscious West.

In a 75-gram serving, for instance, ostrich contains 97 calories, 2 g. of fat, and 58 mg. of cholesterol; roast chicken contains 140 calories, 3 g. of fat, and 73 mg. of cholesterol; while beef steak contains 240 calories, 15 g. of fat, and 77 mg. of cholesterol.

"Our discovery changed everything. People in the business started to regard the meat as a quality product," says Or.

When sales started in 1991, the company began offering customers a range of meat categories and cuts similar to that in the beef market. They called it the meat of the 21st century and to tempt wary palates, Zemach employed chefs to create new ostrich recipes. Today, the company is working on an ostrich recipe book to be published in several languages.

Demand grew quickly, particularly in Europe where Israel has now cornered 17% of the ostrich meat market. One of the biggest pushes came with the Mad Cow disease scare, when some British beef was found to be the cause of a killer disease.

"Israeli ostrich meat has become very famous," says Or. "It leads the market in terms of quality. Demand is high, almost unlimited. It's only a matter of price."

Initially Zemach, which now employs 50 people, slaughtered only 10-20 birds a week. By 1996 this figure rose to 8,500 birds a year bringing in sales of \$6 million. This year, Zemach will sell about 11,000 slaughtered birds, and see an estimated \$8m. in sales. In the meantime, Os.Co., which began slaughtering ostriches a year or so after Zemach, and followed a similar research process, expects to slaughter 6,000 birds this year. By next year, the figure should rise another 2,000-4,000 as a result of an expansion plan now in place.

Next year, Or - who is also chairman of the Israeli Ostrich Producers Association and vice-president of the International Ostrich Association - predicts that the combined total of the two companies will be about 20,000-22,000. While by 1999, when other ostrich farms start producing, the total figure for Israel will be around 40,000-50,000.

Ostrich prices, particularly for those raised in Israel, are presently

Israel is for export. "The price is better abroad and ostrich isn't Kashrut so we didn't want to fight with anyone," says Or.

Today the main markets for Israeli meat are France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. For skin, the most important market is the Far East, where quality is in demand. Other significant markets are Europe and the United States.

There are many plans afoot to increase Israel's share of the world market. Os.Co. and Zemach are now planning to begin marketing their ostrich meat abroad under one brand name. Zemach-Os.Co., and other Israeli farms may join in, once they start producing. Much of the slaughtering and packing of meat is likely to be done at Zemach, which opens a state-of-the-art slaughter house in September.

"It's important to cooperate in marketing abroad," says Hillman.

"Being such a small country means that one person's problem soon becomes someone else's. Viruses spread quickly. We've all worked on our own ideas and carried out our own research, but we share information. There's a syn-

improved knowledge. With cheap labor you can't implement knowledge. When you have expensive, educated people you achieve a lot. It gives you an advantage."

The proof of this lies in the steady stream of visitors who come to Israel to see for themselves how the industry has developed. "They come to see the Israeli miracle," explains Or.

Miracle is perhaps too strong a word, but to understand what makes Israel's achievement so unusual, one only has to look at what happened in the US. In 1992-3, a period during which the world ostrich market began to boom, US farmers decided to develop their own industry. Some 20,000 fertile eggs were sent there from Israel, but the experiment failed miserably. "They didn't find their way," says Or. "Expectations were too high. In the marketplace they are very poor."

So what makes Israel different? "Israeli farmers are educated and they invest in a lot of research. It's the most important part of their work. You can see it in all forms of Israeli agriculture - in dairy, in technology - Israel leads the world."

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

28.8 Dr. Ora Berry, chief scientist at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, will participate in the Israel Venture Association's conference on Technological Trends and Developments Toward the Year 2000. The conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

9.9 The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has organized a meeting at the Hyatt Hotel, Jerusalem, with representatives of the Treasury, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Histadrut, employers associations and academics in an attempt to come up with a formula to reduce unemployment. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, who will participate in the meeting, hopes to be able to subsequently present the government with operative solutions that can be quickly implemented.

9.9 An Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in Bank Igdud will be held at the bank's registered office, 6-8 Ahuzat Bayit Street, Tel Aviv, to make decisions on

reevaluating shares and amending the bank's articles of association. Other business at the meeting will include extending the contract of the general manager and amending the salary of the chairman of the board.

22.9 The Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, is the venue for a symposium on the Revolution in Electronic Communications in Israel. Based on the report of the Peled Committee, the symposium will examine such topics as whether the new Communications Authority is a threat or a promise, expectations from open skies communications, and where the communications revolution is heading. Speakers will include communications, advertising and legal experts from television, radio, academia and the civil service. Among them will be Communications Minister Limor Livnat; Yair Stern, head of Israel Television; Uzi Peled, managing director of Telad, Nahman Shah, managing director of Channel 2 and Yossi Peled, chairman of the Peled committee and former chairman of the Channel 2 Television and Radio Authority Council.

Thailand's Tanasugarn first winner in US Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Venus Williams made a splashy debut at the US Open — just like she knew she would.

"We always just expected to be here," Williams said. "I started playing when I was young, so it was just what I expected, not what I hoped."

And, just as she expected, Williams won, coming from behind to defeat Larisa Neiland of Latvia 5-7, 6-0, 6-1 today.

"In the first set, I was a little bit nervous," Williams admitted. "I really wasn't playing my game and I had to turn it around. ... I was a little bit nervous, because at Wimbledon I didn't play the way I wanted to."

Chanda Rubin won the first point on the spanking new Arthur Ashe Stadium court — and the first game. She also was the first loser in the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn went into the trivia hall of fame by being the first winner in the new complex, 6-4, 6-0.

Rubin and Williams may have been chosen to play the first two matches on the centerpiece of the \$254 million National Tennis Center expansion because they are the two highest-ranked Americans in the sport. Rubin, a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, is ranked 32nd in the world; Williams, who now makes her home at Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is 66th.

"It's awesome," Williams said of the 22,547-seat Arthur Ashe Stadium, named for the only African-American to win a Grand Slam tournament men's singles title. "I like to play in the big stadiums in front of a lot of people."

It was only the fourth Grand Slam tournament match of her career. The 16-year-old right-hander reached the second round of the French Open in May and was knocked out in the first round at Wimbledon in June.

Rubin has struggled ever since she underwent surgery on her wrist early last year. Against Tanasugarn, she displayed none of the form that once took her to No. 6 in the world.

"I feel very happy that I played in the stadium, to be the first — no, two players in the first stadium," Tanasugarn said. "It's my first time to play in a big stadium, center court."

In an early upset, American Lisa Raymond ousted No. 15 Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

The first seeded player to gain a spot in the second round was No. 14 Mark Philippoussis. The big-serving Australian pounded out a



ONE FOR THE BOOKS — American Chanda Rubin hits a backhand to Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn. Chanda made tennis history by being the 1st loser in the new Arthur Ashe Stadium. (Reuters)

6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 decision over Morocco's Karim Alami.

Other early winners included No. 12 Felix Mantilla of Spain, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-2 over Australian Jason Stoltenberg; Britain's Greg Rusedski downed American David Wheaton 6-2, 6-3, 6-3; and Russia's Anna Kournikova eliminated Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 6-2, 6-0.

In the final match on opening day of the year's final Grand Slam event, Pete Sampras was scheduled to face qualifier Todd Larkham of Australia.

Once Whitney Houston's final note has faded into the darkness, once the plethora of former winners have taken their last bow, once the dedication of the new Arthur Ashe Stadium has been completed, Sampras will begin again his chase of Roy Emerson.

"It's only a matter of time before he gets me," said Emerson, who won a record 12 Grand Slam tournament men's singles titles before being inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. "Pete's going to catch me and pass me."

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the 26-year-old Sampras is seeking his third consecutive and fifth career US Open title. He also has four Wimbledon and two Australian Open championships on his resume, giving him a total of 10.

"He's a great player who deserves the record," Emerson said in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he competed in the Legends portion of the MFS Pro Championships. "He'll go way beyond."

But first, Sampras has to make it out of the first week. At least that's

what most players believe.

"If Pete's in the second week, he's probably invincible. ... You've got to get him in the first week. The French Open is the only Grand Slam where he loses in the second week," Britain's Greg Rusedski said about the favorite.

Sampras even received help from the draw. If he beat Larkham as expected, he will play the winner of a first-round match between two more qualifiers: Patrick Baur of Germany and Brazil's Jaime Oncins, who were scheduled to meet on an outside court yesterday.

The third match in Arthur Ashe Stadium pitted two Americans — Jim Courier, who once was ranked No. 1 in the world and reached the US Open final six years ago, and Todd Martin, playing in his first tournament since suffering an injury early this year.

Sweden's Olympic hopes fading fast

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — The explosion that hit Sweden's best-known sports stadium in yesterday's early hours may have finished off the faltering Swedish bid to stage the 2004 Olympic Games.

Not only is there a person or group wandering Sweden with the intent of blowing up sports arenas in an attempt to stop Stockholm being awarded the 2004 Summer Games.

But a string of explosions, the latest targeting Ullevi stadium in Gothenburg, has also shown Swedish police incapable of protecting sports arenas where thousands of athletes, VIPs and spectators would attend the world's biggest sports event.

Athens, Rome, Cape Town and Buenos Aires are the other cities competing for the right to hold the 2004 games. Stockholm was seen, with Athens and Rome, as one of the favorites to win.

The decision will be announced on September 5.

Stockholm bid organizers have been putting a brave face on the series of attacks this year against Stockholm tennis arenas, the home of former prime minister and bid champion Ingvar

Carlsson, and a Stockholm stadium.

But International Olympic Committee (IOC) members meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland next week may not be able to do the same, especially after yesterday's attack on a stadium due to host the Olympic soccer competition. No one was hurt in the blast.

Much of the joy of hosting sports events in Scandinavia is the absence of hooliganism and the presence of good-natured spectators who demand a minimum of security.

The Stockholm bid has based itself on the relaxed, clean-living and safe aspects of Swedish society. If that security advantage disappears, what is Stockholm left with? Bid supporters are hardly being helped by Swedish police, whose reputation for being unable to solve crimes dates back to the 1986 assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme on a central Stockholm street.

That police investigation was revealed to be complacent and incapable of catching criminals. Palme's killer is still at large.

Now, seven Stockholm sports and tennis arenas have been

burned to the ground and Stockholm's most famous stadium, where the 1912 Olympics were staged, was bombed earlier this month.

All attacks were staged in the middle of the night against targets that had virtually no protection. Police appear powerless to stop the bombings.

Despite the attacks, Ullevi stadium was protected by what police described yesterday as "normal" security.

Olympic bid organizers argue there is a world of difference between current security at Swedish stadiums and the security that would be put into place at an Olympic Games.

They point to the 1995 World Athletic Championships held in Ullevi stadium which passed off without a hitch.

In 1995, however, the individual or group that objects so strongly to Stockholm hosting the Olympics was dormant.

A group calling itself We Who Built Sweden (VSBS) has claimed responsibility for the attacks, issuing dire warnings of mass death and destruction if Sweden tries to host the Olympics.

Hapoel Petah Tikva in good shape for Vejle

By AMMANJAH DE VRIES

Hapoel Petah Tikva will be taking on the Danish side Vejle at home tonight in the second-leg of the second preliminary round of UEFA Cup play.

The first leg, played in Denmark, ended in a 0-0 draw. As a result, Petah Tikva must win tonight's match or tie at 0-0 to avoid elimination from the tournament.

A draw puts the Danes through on the away goals rule, by which away goals are worth two points, compared to one point for goals scored at home. According to UEFA Cup rules, if the match is tied at the end of 90 minutes, the sides go into sudden-death extra time, with penalty kicks if still no one scores.

Petah Tikva has had a rather disappointing league season so far and went down 3-1 against Bnei Yehuda in the National League Toto competition last Friday. In Denmark, the Vejle players dominated most of the game, with Petah Tikva top-scorer Morti Kakkon missing an excellent scoring opportunity near the end of the game.

This time around, however, Petah Tikva has the home advantage, after having kept the Danes scoreless in Denmark. Also, star mid-fielder Eli Abarbanel, who has missed UEFA Cup action so far this year, is on the roster for tonight's game. Hungarian central defender Gabor Marton, who scored a crucial injury-time winning goal against Estonia's Flora Tallinn in the first round, is also back from an injury and will be playing tonight. Morti Kakkon, too, has a clean bill of health. Only mid-fielder Shlomi Ben-Hamo is still out of action.

And if all that wasn't enough, the Petah Tikva squad will be cheered on during the game by about 100 extra fans, children from Kiryat Shmona and other northern-border towns whom the team is hosting. The youngsters will eat lunch with the players and each one will receive a Petah Tikva jersey.

As of yesterday morning more than 2,000 of the 7,000 tickets available to the game had been sold. The home side expects the largest crowd so far this season to be at the game.

The Danes, who only arrived in Israel yesterday evening, after a 10-hour journey, mean to make up for the lack of scoring at home and are confident they can pull off a win despite Petah Tikva having the home advantage. They went straight from Ben Gurion airport to the stadium in Petah Tikva for practice.

In their previous UEFA Cup appearance, in 1990, Vejle was eliminated in the first preliminary round 1-0 and 3-0 by Admira Wacker. In Danish league play the team has not been doing much better. They lost their last match 3-0. Alex Norlund is the man to watch for on the Danish side.

The winner of tonight's match in Petah Tikva will advance to the draw for the opening round of the UEFA cup, which includes the likes of Arsenal and Glasgow Celtic.

The game is in Petah Tikva at 19:00 and will be shown live on the Sports channel. In other soccer action Betar Jerusalem take on Sporting Lisbon tomorrow in Lisbon and Hapoel Beersheba plays an at-home Cup Winner's Cup match against Vilnius of Lithuania on Thursday.

LOCAL SCENE

4 local teams advance in sailing c'ships

By HEATHER CHAIT

The familiarity of Tel Aviv's beaches and the Mediterranean waves yesterday sent four local teams through the qualifying rounds to today's main round of the World Sailing Championships (470-division).

Among them are Ze'ev Kalach and David Schwartz who finished the heats in second place in Group A and Eli Zuckerman and Sa'ar Behr, also second in Group B. The other couples among the 26 teams who proceed to the 12 final sails are Nir and Ran Shental and Elad Ronen and Tomer Batini.

Ehud Gal and Gidi Kliger failed to make the grade.

Also in the final sails are the world's top two teams. From Greece come Andreas Kosmatopoulos and Kostas Trigonis with Portugal's Vitor Rocha and Nuno Barreto ranked second in the world.

In the women's competition, Anat Fabrikant and Shani Kedmi moved from fifth to second place after four sails. Leading the women are Ukraine's Vladimira Kravchuk and Natalia Gapovovich.

Tennis: Israel will not have a representative at this year's US Open.

The last ray of light went out when Oren Motevassel lost his third round qualifying match to Jimmy Szymanski from Venezuela 6-3, 6-4. In the second round Motevassel beat New Zealand's Alistair Hunt 6-2, 6-2. Eyal Ran went out in the second qualifying round, losing 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 to John van Lotem from the Netherlands.

Three other male players, Eyal Erlich, Raviv Weidenfeld and Lior Mor lost their first match in the qualifying rounds while Anna Smashnova reached the second round where she met her match.

All the above does not bode well for the Davis Cup tie against

Morocco next month at Ramat Hasharon (19-21 September). While the Moroccan rankings are moving up with Hisham Azaiz at 39 and Karim Alami at 54, the Israeli players have a wide gap to close. Erlich is at 150 this week, Ran at 169, Weidenfeld at 183 and Motevassel at 185.

Golf: Shlomo Avnaim and Meir Assayeg went to a superb 11 under par 47 points to win this week's better ball stableford competition. Basil Kaufman and Ephraim Katzman were second with 43 points. The husband and wife combination of Malca and Mazi Geri was third with 42 and Solly Freeman and Zvi Schachar also scored 42 but with an inferior back nine.

It's the quarter-finals of the Kirshner individual matchplay tournament and still in the running are Eli Hasson who will play against Malca Geri, Hanoach Reichenberg and Liran Kessel, Jules Cuburnek and Shmueli Futeran and Moshe Zarkover who faces David Edel.

Soccer: As early as it is in the English soccer season, Eyal Berkovic is already stealing the show. The Daily Mirror included him in their list of 11 best foreign players in the league this year. Of the Israeli midfielder, now with Westham, the Mirror wrote, "The talented Israeli is likely to prove the best buy of the season, after being bought for only £1.75m."

Betar Jerusalem's goalkeeper Itzik Kornfein is another one worthy of praise. On Sunday, after Betar's afternoon practice, Kornfein cleaned himself up, donned his suit and made his way to Ma'aleh Hahamisha to greet the 750 guests at his wedding to Ery Uzi.

Nuptials or not, at 3.30 the next morning Kornfein presented himself at Ben-Gurion Airport for the flight to the match against Sporting Lisbon.

Schumacher is king of Spa

SPA-FRANCOR CHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — If King Baudouin is the King of Belgium, then Michael Schumacher must be the King of Spa.

Schumacher ruled again at the Belgian Grand Prix Sunday, winning a race in wet conditions armed with his knowledge of the tricky weather and a track to his liking.

He has merely won the race in the Ardennes Forest four of the last six years. In fact, he has only been beaten by one other driver during that time when he was second in the 1993 race. In 1994, he actually finished first but was disqualified on a technicality.

Schumacher lives about 100 kilometers away in Kerpen, Germany. So he knows the area, he knows the track, and he knows how to win when it rains.

Schumacher dominated the early part of the 44-lap race, coming out with intermediate wet weather tires after a shower just before the start soaked the track.

In his Ferrari, he saw the changing conditions and was pleased. "I have to say when I was sitting on the grid and the sun was coming out and the rain was stopping, I had my first smile," Schumacher said.

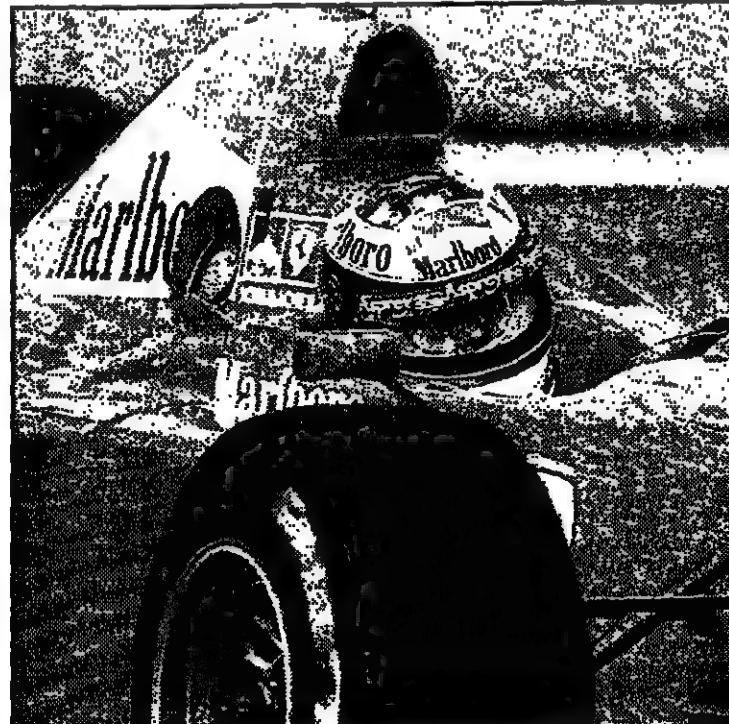
About 90 minutes later, he won the race by 26 seconds ahead of Giancarlo Fisichella of Italy in a Jordan-Peugeot.

Mika Hakkinen of Finland was third, more than 30 seconds behind. Schumacher now has a 12-point lead in the drivers' standings over Jacques Villeneuve with the Italian Grand Prix September 7.

"Nothing is decided yet, 12 points is a nice margin but it is not definite," Schumacher said. It was the 26th career victory for Schumacher and the fourth this year.

Schumacher was ready for the rain in Belgium. "It counts in certain circumstances... to know the weather here," he said. "It helps to make it correct."

In 1995, he started in 16th posi-



GREASED LIGHTNING — Michael Schumacher en route to winning the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday. (Reuters)

tion but the rains came. He made the right changes of tires at the right time and threaded his way through the pack to win.

In Monaco this past May, he made another decision just before the race to change tires and the setting of his car and won easily.

At the race Sunday, he waited in the pits until it started pouring. Then he went out on the track after everyone else was on the starting grid. He had a solo lap to warm up his tires while the others were just putting them on.

He was able to pit twice without problems as the track conditions dried.

"Obviously, I like those circumstances here very much. It suits me," Schumacher said. The first three laps of the race were behind a safety car because of the amount of water on the track. No passing was allowed with Villeneuve and Jean Alesi ahead

of Schumacher. With the pace car gone and the cars unleashed, it was no contest. At the beginning of the fifth lap, Schumacher went into first and built up a lead of nearly six seconds by the end of the 4.329-mile circuit. By the 13th lap, the gap was more than a minute.

After 30 laps with the track practically dry, Schumacher still had a 44-second lead after his second tire change and went on to win comfortably.

Hakkinen's third place was under a question mark. The fuel in his McLaren-Mercedes on Saturday's qualifying did not comply with regulations. The team appealed and the sport's governing body-FIA, will review the case.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany was fourth. Britain's Johnny Herbert was fifth, while Villeneuve ended sixth.

Northwestern replaces Wisconsin in rankings Penn State leads the pack

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-ranked Penn State still leads a six-team Big Ten conference contingent, but Northwestern moves in to replace Wisconsin in The Associated Press first regular-season Top 25 college football poll.

And Syracuse, off an impressive 34-0 victory over the Badgers in Sunday's Kickoff Classic, jumped from No. 17 to No. 13 in balloting from the 70 sportswriters and broadcasters who vote in the poll.

The Wildcats, who beat Oklahoma 24-0 in Saturday's Pigskin Classic, were unranked in the preseason poll but moved in at No. 24 this week, the same spot Wisconsin held.

The Kickoff and Pigskin classics opened the season, with nearly a full slate of games set for Saturday.

The Nittany Lions, who open the season against Pittsburgh on September 6, received 22 first-place votes and 1,602 points, while Florida, the defending national champions, remained No. 2 with 14 first-place votes and 1,563 points. The Gators open their season Saturday against Southern Mississippi.

Florida State, with six first-place votes and 1,503 points, remained third, followed by Washington (nine first-place votes, 1,498 points) and Tennessee (seven first-place votes, 1,480 points).

Nebraska, with four first-place votes and 1,425 points, was sixth, followed by North

Carolina (four first-place votes, 1,343 points), Colorado (three first-place votes, 1,318 points), Ohio State (one first-place vote, 1,166 points) and LSU.

The six Big Ten teams in the Top 25 are Penn State, No. 9 Ohio State, No. 15 Michigan, No. 21 Iowa, Northwestern and No. 25 Michigan State.

Notre Dame was 11th, followed by Texas, Syracuse, Miami, Michigan, Alabama, Auburn, Stanford, Brigham Young, Clemson, Iowa, Kansas State, Southern California, Northwestern and Michigan State.

AP's top 25 college football teams

(The top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sunday total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and ranking in previous poll)

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1	Penn St. (22)	9-0	1,602	2
2	Florida (14)	9-0	1,563	3
3	Washington (9)	9-0	1,498	4
4	Tennessee (7)	9-0	1,480	5
5	Nebraska (4)	9-0	1,425	6
6	North Carolina (4)	9-0	1,343	7
7	Colorado (3)	9-0	1,318	8
8	Ohio St. (1)	9-0	1,166	9
9	LSU	9-0	1,092	10
10	Notre Dame	9-0	1,057	11
11	Texas	9-0	870	12
12	Syracuse	1-0	868	17
13	Miami	9-0	800	13
14	Michigan	9-0	792	14
15	Alabama	9-0	684	15
16	Auburn	9-0	657	16
17	Stanford	9-0	625	18
18	Brigham Young	9-0	565	19
19	Clemson	9-0	539	20
20	Iowa	9-0	529	21
21	Kansas St.	9-0	220	23
22	Southern Cal	9-0	214	22
23	Northwestern	1-0	194	24
24	Michigan St.	9-0	166	25

Others receiving votes: Colorado St. 137, Arizona St. 107, Texas A&M 84, Virginia Tech 72, UCLA 71, Arizona St. 64, Virginia 47, East Carolina 25, Georgia 22, West Virginia 17, Southern Miss. 13, Utah 13, Houston 9, South Carolina 7, Georgia Tech 5, Middle Tenn 4, Washington St. 4, Arkansas 3, Nevada 1, Rice 1, San Diego St. 1, Wisconsin 1.

St. Mike of Bourbon Street

Coach Mike Ditka, savoring preseason win over former employer, gets set to start 1st year at Saints' helm

CHICAGO (AP) — He walked toward the "Ditka For President" banner in the southeast corner of the end zone and heard the fans chanting his name.

Mike Ditka was Da Coach again, victorious at Soldier Field, one of the most beloved sports figures in Chicago history.

"I'm lucky to be back, I realize that," said Ditka, out of the NFL for four years after the Bears fired him in 1992 until the New Orleans Saints hired him for this season, which begins Sunday.

"To come here, to leave and to have another opportunity to go back and do it one more time... what a thrill to be able to have a second chance to do what you really love doing," he said. "How many people can say that? I'm the luckiest guy in the world."

Right now, the Saints feel pretty lucky to have Ditka.

By beating the Bears 13-7 Friday night, they finished the preseason with as many victories as they had all last regular season, when they were 3-13.

"Coach Ditka instills an attitude in us all," Saints cornerback Jerod Cherry said. "You don't want to let him down."

Ditka, who was 112-68 in 11 years with the Bears and became an icon when he led them to a Super Bowl victory after the 1985 season, cut a familiar figure on the Soldier Field sideline — even if it was the unfamiliar east sideline.

He gave his chewing gum a serious workout and stood with his arms crossed over his chest. There were no tirades, which were common when he coached the Bears, but he made his presence felt by occasionally bellowing at one of his players or an official.

"He hasn't changed one bit," said Saints center Jerry Fontenot, who was with the Bears during Ditka's last four seasons in Chicago. "He's just as hungry and intense, and loves to win just as much. He runs this team the way he's always run a team."

Everyone needs a leader, someone to rally around."

Bears offensive tackle James Williams, one of only six holdovers from the Ditka era, said his former coach "has mellowed out a little bit." "Just all the hollering," Williams said, "that's what I remember about him."

Saints quarterback Heath Shuler, like Jim McMahon, Jim Harbaugh and others to play that position under Ditka, isn't sure the man has mellowed all that much.

"Ditka gets on me sometimes," Shuler said. "He puts all the pressure on your shoulder. It builds character and toughness. You don't want to upset the guy and you don't want to embarrass yourself."

Before the game, Ditka chatted with the man who replaced him as Chicago coach, Dave Wannstedt. He also met briefly with Bears president Michael McCaskey, who fired Ditka after a 5-11 season in '92.

"He just asked me if I was happy to be back and I told him I was," Ditka said.

Ditka was cheered regularly by the crowd, and fans booed when Wannstedt elected not to go for a first down on fourth-and-1 from midfield in the second quarter.

Friday's game was only Ditka Returns, Part I.

The Saints will be back at Soldier Field on October 5 in a game that will count in the standings.

"I just hope it's over now," Ditka said of the hype. "I hope it's not like this when we come back here next time." Bears linebacker Bryan Cox shares that hope.

"It was a pain in the butt," he said. "I'm all for loving somebody and enjoying somebody, but that (Super Bowl season) was 12 years ago. We've got to make something happen, around here for ourselves."

The Bears, who have only been a .500 team since Ditka left and have missed the playoffs in three of four years, finished the preseason 2-3.



FUMBLETTIS — Bears QB Erik Kramer (12) loses the ball after being hit by Saints' Mark Fields (55) and Anthony Newman in a preseason game at Soldier Field on Friday. New Orleans, who recovered the fumble, won 13-7.

Packers in punting predicament

GREEN BAY (AP) — Maybe the Super Bowl champs should have drafted unsung kicker Ryan Longwell instead of Brett Conway, the lauded third-rounder who missed four consecutive field goals and three straight exhibition games.

That way, they wouldn't be in the predicament they're in.

Green Bay Packers general manager Ron Wolf, who cut ties with reliable eight-year veteran Chris Jacke in the offseason, and coach Mike Holmgren have to decide what to do about their kicker quandary before the season opens.

Do they cut Longwell, a free agent from Cal who's been perfect in the preseason, nailing six field goals and 10 extra points?

Do they keep both kickers until Conway, the Penn State star who received a \$290,000 signing bonus, can return from a damaged right quadriceps muscle, the result of overwork following a three-miss performance against New England on July 31?

Or do they go with punter Craig Hentrich in the meantime? Could they possibly trust Conway, who hasn't kicked anything more than a few soccer balls since getting hurt on August 8, to kick against the Chicago Bears in their opener on Monday, September 1?

Longwell, who kicked field goals of 50, 28 and 49 yards as the Packers rallied to beat the New York Giants 22-17 on Friday night, said he's pretty sure he's earned an NFL job — he's just not so sure it's in Green Bay.

"The only thing I can say is I put the decision in their hands," Longwell said. "I did my part. And it might be hard to part with him after his performance against the Giants."

Longwell not only nailed all three of his field goals, but he put four of six kickoffs into the end zone, squibbing one at the end of the first half.

That had to open Wolf's and Holmgren's eyes, for it was the only question about Longwell, whose first 16 kickoffs had landed on average at the 5-yard line.

The only kickoff that was short Friday night was fielded at the Giants 8. That followed a failed

two-point conversion pass from Doug Pederson to Don Beebe in the closing minutes.

"That's the one I was disappointed in, because I didn't get to kick the PAT, which is naturally how I warm up," Longwell said.

It was Longwell's only blemish.

"He certainly has had a good camp and a good preseason," Holmgren said. "He's a good kicker. We'll have to wait and see how Brett's doing and then make the decision."

"Physically, I've done everything on my end of the deal," Longwell said. "Now, it's a business decision." Still, Longwell said he fully expects to get cut.

"I'll pack my stuff up and plan to get the phone call," he said. "I think I have to. They put their stock in Brett, and they gave him a lot of money."

Longwell's not even sure he could have done anything to stay.

"I don't think they can look at anything that I've done and point a finger and say that's the reason (to cut me)," Longwell said. "The only reason they can say is they drafted Brett and gave him a big signing bonus, which, in this day and age sometimes is more than physical talent."

"So, it's not so much what you do on the field, it's what they think of you and give you money-wise."

Longwell signed for the league minimum after he was released by San Francisco this summer because the Packers, ironically, didn't expect him to be anything more than a "camp leg," spelling Conway to keep him healthy.

Conway, whose injury came at the end of a week in which he admittedly kicked almost twice the number of balls he normally does, had more medical tests Friday, and Holmgren said the reports were encouraging.

"It's my understanding that the injury is not that severe," Holmgren said. "So, that was the good part. Now we just have to get him so he's feeling good about his leg and he's confident in making the kicks."

"But certainly Longwell, getting back to that question, he has kicked well enough to make the football team," Holmgren said.

"Now whether that happens, we'll see."

COMMENT

Hey world, stop belittling American 'soccer'

By ALEX JOHNSON

What is the United States' place in world soccer? To hear the traditionalists tell it, that's a silly question. We have no place in world soccer.

Inevitably, a small part of my mail each month comes from European soccer traditionalists horrified by what they read in US papers. This is especially true in the Northern Hemisphere summer months, when the rest of the world gets force-fed a diet of soccer American-style. The major European leagues are dominant and the South American leagues are winding their way through preliminary tournaments, while the big sports television companies are beaming Major League Soccer around the world.

At its heart, the reaction seems to reflect a generic scorn of anything "American." When challenged, such folks start by responding that it's "football," damn it, not "soccer." Why that's so important is beyond me. "Soccer" is not an Americanism. Really. It's British English, more than 120 years old, with a very specific English pedigree. We just borrowed it. The most important English-language soccer magazine in the world, after all, has been called *World Soccer*, not *World Football*, for a half-century. It's published in London.

Moreover, the mantra that "it's football everywhere else" is plain false. It's "football" only in the British Isles and in some of the Romance languages. The traditionalists' argument is not just with the Americans, but also with the Canadians, the Australians, the South Africans and most of the Caribbean and the West Indies.

With much of the rest of the world, for that matter. Would the same drunken gentlemen who poked his finger in my chest at a World Cup game three years ago and insisted that "it's (bleeping) football, (expletive) American" march up to someone in Italy and say the same thing? The Italians call it "calcio." Not "football." And they've won more World Cups than the English, too.

More annoying to the snobs seems to be that we "don't know the game." "You're always trying to change it," they say.

To which I answer: No, we're not.

Major League Soccer plays by almost exactly the same rules as the rest of the world. MLS has gone so far as to cancel games that would otherwise have been played on the artificial turf that is so identified with American sports, and it has even managed to strong-arm giant television networks into agreeing to air 45-minute-long halves uninterrupted by commercials, a wondrous achievement for which the US Soccer Federation and MLS have received too little credit.

Even the odious shootout (whose advocates include Johan Cruyff, who wants to use it in the World Cup) is merely an elaboration of the equally silly penalty-kick tiebreaker used elsewhere. It turns out that when you really look at it, the biggest change we've made in the rules is to have the game clock count down from 45 instead of up from 0.

Oh, the horror! The intellectual's explanation for the scorn heaped on American soccer fans — and the US soccer audience is, statistically speaking, significantly wealthier and better-educated than the general sports

audience, so there are lots of intellectuals dreaming up pedantic theories — is that in the post-Cold War world, soccer is one of the very few arenas left in which the rest of the world is indisputably better than we are.

The US dominates trade, international politics and, increasingly, culture of all browns, high-, middle- and low-. The rest of the world fears that the US will inevitably try to make soccer just another arena in which to arrogantly demonstrate that it is the world's only superpower, the argument goes.

I don't completely buy that — as the fifth sport in a four-sport country, soccer isn't strong enough to carry all that geopolitical weight — but it is an interesting thought.

To be sure, we contribute to the atmosphere in a hundred tiny ways, insignificant in themselves but really annoying when taken together.

The worst of these is the incessant assault on the senses intended to generate fake enthusiasm at games. MLS teams pipe fake clapping over the speakers, for example, often during play and usually at exactly the least appropriate moment. They parade cheesy mascots through the stands and blare advertisements for licensed merchandise or for whatever happens to be the "Official Doo-Hickey of MLS" at the moment, sublimely oblivious of the fact that, down on the field, the game-winning goal has just gone into the net.

That sort of hucksterism, in fact, is what is most distasteful about American soccer, and it is why, I believe, soccer traditionalists find it hard to accept us. They dislike us not because we don't know the game, or because we might try to change it, but because they look at all the extraneous highjinks and conclude that we don't respect soccer. And at times I can't blame them; when they start playing that narcotic recorded "Ole, ole, ole, ole" music over the loudspeakers in US stadiums, I can only cringe in mortified embarrassment.

Lost in the crossfire is the understanding that such stupidity is almost exclusively generated by soccer-literate marketing types, the dweebs in suits who think of soccer as a "product," not a sport, the ones who daintily ride elevators to their air-conditioned skyboxes, where they never have to meet an actual soccer fan in the stands.

I wish there were a way to make it clear to the international soccer community that the great crowds of real-life American soccer fans are just as put off by that stuff as you are.

I keep repeating this point every week, it seems, for the benefit of the men running American soccer. But it bears announcing to the rest of the world, too: All the American soccer fan needs and wants is a good game of soccer. You're right about all the rest of it, but we're fighting the good fight for the game right along with you.

So I propose a truce. We in America will fight the executives who keep trying to fix what isn't broken. In return, you will agree to stop treating us like the crazy aunt you want to hide away in the basement.

American soccer is not going to go away. In the end, you and we will both have to adapt. So for the sake of civility — and everybody's blood pressure — we all need to take a deep breath, relax and keep reminding ourselves, "It's only a game." (The Washington Post)

Taylor: Australia won't rest on its laurels

LONDON (AP) — As Mark Taylor and his all-conquering team prepare to return home after an historic Ashes victory, the Australian captain insists his side will not be resting on its laurels for the challenges that lie ahead.

A year ago the Australians set themselves a goal to defeat the West Indies at home and then win away Test series against South Africa and England. With that now accomplished, the Australians return home to play Tests against New Zealand and South Africa.

"When we get back to Australia we'll reset the goals," said Taylor. "You've got to keep moving on. You can't rest on your laurels."

The Australians then face tough tourists to India in February and Pakistan in October. Australia has not won a Test series on the subcontinent since Richie Benaud's men were victorious in 1959-60, and Taylor wants to end the bogey run.

"It's something every sportsman or woman wants to do, to answer every possible question while they're still playing," Taylor said.

The only place we haven't won is the subcontinent and that will be the hurdle next year. Things like the subcontinent challenge will spur the senior guys on. We'd like to win there.

"For all players, Test matches are the pinnacle in themselves, but the more you play the more you like to knock off the little challenges that get thrown in your face."



LOOKING AHEAD — Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor, seen here with the Ashes trophy, says his team's next goal is to win a Test on the subcontinent.

The challenge facing the Australians as it arrived in England in May was to win the Ashes for a fifth consecutive time. It did that, and significantly, it came from behind to win for the first time since Taylor became captain in 1994.

After losing by nine wickets in the first Test at Edgbaston, Australia went on to win three in-a-row at Old Trafford, Headingley and Trent Bridge before losing by 19 runs at the Oval.

"Right from the word go we were behind," said Taylor. "In the first Test we were not beaten, we were flogged. It was a fair hiding and we had to fight all the way."

"That's why I think this win has been special, more special than the

challenge is to return to form with the bat.

His leadership qualities are unrivalled, but his future in the Australian team remains uncertain due to consistently poor batting performances.

"My future is going to be based around how I play," Taylor said. "My captaincy certainly hasn't fallen away in the last year and my slips catching has been pretty good for the last year or so."

"It's going to be up to me to make some runs."

Taylor had not scored over 50 in 20 innings before he knocked a century under immense pressure in the first Test. But in the next five matches the left-handed opener passed 50 only once.

"After I got the hundred at Edgbaston, which got the monkey off my back, I said I'd like to be consistent, and I have been — consistently low," he admitted.

Taylor's state team, New South Wales, has a Sheffield Shield game against Victoria and a tour match against New Zealand before the first Test at Brisbane in November.

Taylor would have to perform well in both those matches, but he indicated that the decision as to whether he would like to carry on as captain would be made before the season starts.

"It's a wider picture than that — I don't think a couple of Shield games are going to make a difference," Taylor said.

Saints secure finals place in Australian football

MELBOURNE (AP) — St. Kilda stayed calm against bottom-placed Melbourne to move to the top of the table while other finals contenders faltered in the penultimate round of the Australian Football League competition this weekend.

Jason Heatley kicked seven goals for the Saints who ended round 21 on top of the ladder on percentages. St. Kilda, which will play its third finals series in 25 years, shares the top rung with Geelong after the Cats downed Fremantle in Perth.

The Saints' will finish in the top two if they beat Port Adelaide at Football Park next week following a 17.12 (114) to 8.14 (62) win over the Demons.

Adelaide 6.12 (48) defeated Collingwood 5.9 (39) yesterday to move third on percentages ahead of Western Bulldogs.

Port squandered a chance to break into the top

eight in their first season with a loss to out-of-contention Richmond on Sunday after Brisbane had thrown away a 34-point lead against Essendon.

Sydney was another of the teams jockeying for finals positions to fall away, losing to Carlton. Carlton coach David Parkin proclaimed Sydney as favorite for this year's championship despite beating the Swans 11.10 (76) to 5.11 (41).

Brad Pearce kicked five goals for Carlton, which is still an outside chance of making the final eight.

"I would start them as premiership favorites... the way they are playing they are capable of being successful wherever and whoever they play," Parkin said.

Sydney coach Rodney Eade said, "to give up without a whimper was disappointing." Brisbane is eighth on percentages, ahead of Port, after a

shock home defeat.

Essendon was down by 34 points in the final quarter before an eight-goal blitz set up a 16.10 (106) to 15.12 (104) victory.

Defending champion North Melbourne stayed in touch with the top four with a 38-point win over Hawthorn.

Brett Allison kicked four goals for North in wet, windy conditions, while captain Wayne Carey was best fielded with a strong performance at center half-back.

"To come out in that sort of game with those sorts of conditions, which are great levers, we were certainly very pleased," said coach Denis Pagan.

North now must beat Collingwood in next weekend's last home and away round to have a chance of making the top four, which would mean a home final in the opening week of the finals series.

Major League Statistics (Through Friday's Games)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	Pct	GB	SV
Atlanta	3.18	1055	407	359	910
Los Angeles	3.41	1044	436	420	975
St. Louis	3.52	1076	443	414	937
Houston	3.70	1109	475	384	984
Florida	3.80	1034	476	506	936
New York	4.04	1156	512	387	713
Montreal	4.15	1053	518	438	888
San Francisco	4.26	1174	541	442	785
Pittsburgh	4.36	1195	550	456	860
Cincinnati	4.39	1070	546	454	912
Chicago	4.40	1159	555	462	844
San Diego	4.93	1262	627	469	823
Philadelphia	5.16	1114	617	503	889
Colorado	5.48	1358	686	454	661

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Based on 12 decisions

IP	H	BB	SO	W	L	ERA
PJ Martinez Mon	186	114	56	232	14	1.64
Eli Hou	213	176	70	168	17	2.28
Glendon Ad	188	162	18	148	17	2.39
BWagner Hou	55	45	21	89	7	2.43
NValkes LA	147	134	34	106	8	2.76
Nagle LA	186	168	37	134	6	2.84
JBrown LA	184	165	52	171	11	2.89
Albinoes StL	161	128	68	160	9	2.89
Schilling Phi	203	165	50	254	13	2.92
Rheed NYM	160	152	25	82	10	2.98
Morris StL	165	158	56	118	9	2.99
Smoltz Atl	204	192	55	183	12	3.00
McMichael NYM	68	61	21	53	7	3.03
Glavinie Atl	187	157	65	113	11	3.07
Andres StL	152	128	53	155	8	3.08
Estes StL	160	130	74	137	16	3.15
Park LA	160	124	57	135	13	3.19
Toulin Cin	80	64	31	57	8	3.24
Abernathy Hou	174	151	55	147	16	3.40
PCordova Phi	158	154	42	102	9	3.41
Candiani LA	100	96	28	64	9	3.42
Russell StL	154	157	39	93	9	3.54
BJones NYM	164	154	50	104	13	3.61
Holt Hou	166	173	48	73	8	3.62
Sundt NYM	175	148	61	158	12	3.64
Herrmann Hou	124	105	48	115	8	3.70
Cookie Phi	141	151	65	87	9	3.81
Gardner StL	164	163	49	127	12	3.83
Hendrix Hou	129	119	59	66	8	3.89
Hampson Hou	173	168	62	108	10	4.00
Cherow Hou	167	168	41	89	11	4.04
Asato LA	153	151	47	115	7	4.10
Norio LA	164	156	78	187	11	4.10
Nhamilton SD	152	156	57	98	10	4.19
NGarcia Hou	113	115	34	85	5	4.20
Jordan Hou	130	125	57	107	11	4.22
McClark Cin	155	172	49	83	10	4.24
Schmidt Phi	148	145	64	110	8	4.24
Reynolds Hou	137	138	38	115	6	4.25
Philander SD	160	167	45	75	6	4.27
Asby SD	149	167	38	96	6	4.27
Lozita Phi	149	173	44	93	9	4.35
JBailley Col	155	175	49	64	9	4.40
McGowan Cin	98	102	48	62	9	4.41
Alister Cin	144	139	65	116	10	4.49
Alister Hou	117	105	75	105	8	4.53
Thomson Col	122	138	38	78	8	4.56
Lieber Phi	149	158	47	126	12	4.58
Milki NYM	149	159	65	114	5	4.65
Hickcock SD	133	134	58	115	9	4.66
Trachsel Cin	127	179	56	127	6	4.82
Rapp StL	127	144	37	75	8	4.88
Vazquez LA	89	106	46	72	12	4.96
Berth Cin	128	127	67	109	6	5.19
Smiley Cin	117	139	31	94	9	5.23
FCastillo Hou	142	170	59	99	10	5.26
Morgan Cin	115	128	40	105	15	5.29
Schweck Cin	76	65	35	55	7	5.42
Bullinger Hou	140	155	68	77	6	5.85
Ritz Col	107	142	46	56	6	5.87
MLewer Phi	138	167	33	100	8	5.88
JimWright Col	111	152	56	49	9	7.01

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	Pct	GB	SV
Colorado	4.27	114	1268	177	669
San Diego	4.21	643	1195	121	618
Atlanta	4.34	618	1170	131	592
New York	4.32	594	1143	157	565
Los Angeles	4.31	558	1143	157	565
Montreal	4.29	548	1124	129	522
Pittsburgh	4.33	540	1130	99	532
Florida	4.22	555	1103	96	526
San Francisco	4.34	606	1117	185	582
Houston	4.31	611	1120	182	558
Chicago	4.28	523	1115	97	489
St. Louis	4.27	516	1094	103	487
Philadelphia	4.22	506	1059	104	452

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Based on 300 plate appearances

AB	R	H	HR	HR	HR	HR
Gwyn SD	472	71	178	16	103	37
DWaller Col	459	111	171	34	102	37
Lofgren Hou	374	68	130	3	38	34
Piazza LA	431	75	149	28	84	34
Joyner SD	343	50	121	10	68	33
Galarraga Col	473	90	152	32	114	37
Allison NYM	389	60	123	8	56	31
McGrath Cin	431	63	137	9	58	31
KRong Phi	292	51	92	16	68	31
Landford StL	364	70	113	25	82	34
Blasler StL	419	73	131	15	61	31
Benita LA	449	62	140	15	80	31
Biggio Hou	503	116	158	18	72	31
OJones Hou	480	76	148	18	95	30
Podest LA	487	77	150	16	67	30
Segui Hou	354	57	109	14	54	30
Burke LA	306	47	93	0	16	30
Bichette Col	445	60	135	18	92	30
Marandini Phi	443	61	134	1	30	30
Glaville Cin	345	62	110	3	25	30
Clifford NYM	434	75	131	14	77	30
Castillo Hou	486	75	145	32	108	29
Landing Hou	450	72	133	15	85	29
Snow StL	422	61	125	20	78	29
Alou LA	432	72	128	17	94	29
Kendall Phi	386	59	114	4	43	29
Bergs NYM	374	42	110	8	44	29
Lopez Atl	317	40	93	19	33	29
Rolen Phi	425	72	129	17	77	29
Bonds StL	442	92	124	30	79	29
WGuerrero LA	347	36	101	4	32	29
LJohnson Cin	304	46	89	7	32	29
Muller StL	272	36	79	3	35	29
Randa Phi	335	41	97	5	41	29
Lawer StL	342	60	99	7	39	29
Edwards Hou	483	82	139	6	46	28
Bagwell Hou	457	88	131	34	108	28
DeShields StL	519	49	129	11	48	28
Womack StL	448	64	148	4	48	28
Haby StL	388	40	110	5	36	28

TEAM BATTING

AB	R	H	HR	HR	HR	HR
Dunston Cin	381	50	108	8	38	283
QVazquez SD	423	62	119	3	40	281
Grubbs Hou	494	62	138	3	41	279
Alfonso Hou	323	47	90	8	40	279
McCracken Col	362	55	101	4	28	279
OSanders Cin	455	53	126	5	22	277
INorris Cin	333	42	92	1	33	276
JGullien Phi	407	49	112	12	35	275
Hendley NYM	341	72	99	27	35	274
Henderson SD	288	63	79	6	27	274
Heskey NYM	344	40	94	14	56	273
Tucker Atl	427	67	116	11	49	272
Arnesen Hou	345	42	94	3	34	272
DeBell Hou	361	47	98	10	53	271
Gagne LA	421	38	110	8	32	271
McGriff Atl	452	64	122	17	71	270
Ortiz Cin	268	25	72	7	33	269
Johnson Phi	320	36	86	16	51	269
RWhite Hou	457	65	123	19	61	269
LGonzalez Hou	450	60	121	7	56	269
Weiss Col	290	30	78	2	27	269
Allensworth Phi	300	46	80	3	40	267
Restaritz LA	485	67	129	3	42	266
Cannizzo SD	376	66	100	17	60	266
Bertha Col	306	67	81	24	61	265
Karras LA	485	66	128	25	85	264
Dashon LA	333	57	88	12	51	264
Stocker Phi	409	67	107	3	30	262
Vizcaino SD	459	61	120	3	36	261
Staley SD	373	77	113	22	78	261
Flaherty SD	333	32	97	8	41	260
GRH StL	346	39	90	9	55	260
Sandberg Cin	345	45	95	8	46	260
Saizango Hou	316	55	82	5	30	259
MLewis StL	295	41	76	10	37	258
Gomez SD	441	57	112	5	50	254
Kent StL	445	75	113	24	96	254
Jeffries Phi	433	62	110	11	46	254
WGreene Cin	344	46	92	18	62	253
Gastis StL	399	50	104	13	51	253
Liethard Phi	331	48	88	18	59	253
Everett NYM	362	43	91	12	50	251
Clayton StL	464	61	116	8	46	250
Brogan Phi	429	49	107	15	68	249
Sosa Cin	510	72	127	28	96	249
RRodriguez Hou	408	50	101	24	74	248
Servais Cin	323	30	80	5	35	248
Conine Phi	348	36	86	10	44	247
Alonso Atl	313	49	77	13	51	246
Lemke Atl	351	33	86	2	26	245
Klecko Atl	381	52	93	18	65	244
Hammaring Col	282	21	68	1	24	241
Sheffield LA	346	62	83	14	53	240
Zeile LA	403	69	108	23	65	238
McKen NYM	464	69	110	6	30	237
Gant StL	424	56	99	14	54	233
BBone Cin	347	28	78	5	37	225
GLough SD	276	48	61	14	39	221
Gilley NYM	404	59	88	12	54	218

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Based on 300 plate appearances

Jefferson StL	370	64	130	12	58	351
Thomas Hou	409	88	143	29	102	350
Justin Cin	344	63	121	26	88	332
Ramirez Cin	432	76	143	22	72	331
ERodriguez StL	450	90	147	22	91	327
WClark Tex	392	56	128	12	51	327
O'Neill NYM	443	76	145	10	99	327
Greer Tex	476	86	155	20		
Walters Hou	457	65	123	19	81	288
McGeez Hou	450	63	121	7	56	268
Weiss Col	290	30	78	2	77	249
Winnipeg Wt	300	46	80	3	40	267
Campania SD	385	67	129	3	42	266
Ramirez SD	376	66	100	17	60	266
Berrios Col	304	67	81	24	61	265
Murro Col	405	66	128	25	85	264
Greaser Phil	433	57	88	12	51	264
Winnipeg SF	403	67	120	3	36	261
Winnipeg SF	459	71	113	22	78	261
Winnipeg SF	374	32	97	8	41	260
Gibney SD	346	39	90	9	55	260
Sanberg Chic	365	65	95	8	46	260
Winnipeg Hou	316	55	82	5	30	259
Leone SD	295	41	76	10	37	258
Winnipeg SF	445	75	112	5	50	257
Winnipeg SF	435	75	113	24	96	254
Winnipeg Phil	443	62	110	11	96	254
Winnipeg Hou	364	46	92	18	62	253
Winnipeg SD	399	50	104	13	51	253
Winnipeg Phil	351	48	88	10	59	251
Winnipeg NYM	352	43	91	12	50	251
Winnipeg Phil	361	41	116	8	46	250
Winnipeg Phil	429	49	107	15	68	249
Winnipeg Chic	510	72	127	28	76	249
Winnipeg Hou	408	50	101	24	74	248
Winnipeg Chic	323	30	80	5	35	248
Winnipeg Phil	343	36	86	10	41	247
Winnipeg Act	318	49	77	13	51	246
Winnipeg Act	351	33	86	2	26	245
Winnipeg Act	381	52	93	8	65	244
Winnipeg Ham	282	21	68	1	24	241
Winnipeg Phil	346	63	83	14	53	240
Winnipeg La	453	69	108	23	65	238
Winnipeg NYM	403	69	110	6	30	237
Winnipeg Cin	424	56	104	14	54	233
Winnipeg Cin	347	28	78	5	37	223
Winnipeg SD	276	48	68	12	39	221
Winnipeg NYM	404	59	88	14	54	221

GRAPEVINE

Splitting hairs

By GREEN FAY CASHMAN

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is looking more dapper these days — and it's not just his well-cut suits that are doing the trick. Hanegbi is somewhat more hirsute than he used to be. Those who've noticed are curious to know whether it's a transplant or a toupee.

SOME PEOPLE did a double take when they saw the advertisement for last Saturday night's appearance at the Western Wall by bearded blonde bombshell Rebekkah Esther Jungreis. The last line indicated that admission was free. Did that apply to Conservative and Reform Jews as well? Until last Tisha Be'av, most Jews thought that admission to the Western Wall was free to everyone at any time. For some Jews, there's a toll of bruised bones and egos.

RABBI Moshe Levinger will be one of the keynote speakers at tomorrow's 30th anniversary celebrations of Jewish resettlement in Kiryat Arba and Hebron. Also attending will be Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior, council chairman Zvi Katzover, former MK Genia Cohen, and entertainers Avihu Medina and Tzamed Re'im. Festivities will be continued on Thursday with a concert by American Hasidic rock singer Avraham Fried.

INTERVIEWING the prime minister's spokesman Shai Bazak in the wake of print media reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was less than happy about President Ezer Weizman's self-imposed role in political affairs, Channel 2's Aharon Barnea asked: "Aren't you disturbed by the president's political intervention?" Coming from any other anchor or reporter it would have been a perfectly legitimate question, but coming from Barnea it was something else. Before joining Channel 2, Barnea was Weizman's spokesman.

THEY'RE still playing musical chairs in the broadcasting business. Elinor Ya'ari, who anchors Channel 1's hard-hitting investigative news-feature program *Second Look* and occasionally hosts a morning program on Israel Radio, is taking a leave of absence to assume the role of director of The New Israel Fund. Colleague Dudu Gilboa, after completing a year's leave of absence from Israel Television, where he was head of the news

division, to try his hand in the world of public relations, has decided to call it quits and is casting his lot with Channel 2, via Keshet. Gilboa will edit Chaim Yavin's new investigative program, which debuts in December. Dan Margalit, who abandoned *Popolitica* to return to Keshet, is due to start his new and similar show in November, and Razi Barkai, who anchors *What's Burning?* on Army Radio and *Media File* on Educational Television, is weighing offers from both Channel 1 and Channel 2.

THE REPEATEDLY deferred visit to Israel by South African President Nelson Mandela has robbed Ben-Gurion University of the Negev of the opportunity to confer upon him an honorary doctorate in philosophy. Undaunted, and encouraged by the South African Friends of BCU, university president Avishai Braverman is leading a delegation to Cape Town to conduct the ceremony in Mandela's own domain. Mandela will be suitably capped and gowned on September 19.

SOME PEOPLE never lose their clout. Feisty, outspoken Labor Party veteran and Kibbutz Givat Haim member Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, who was Histadrut secretary general from 1969 to 1974 and left in the wake of the Rimon revolution three years ago, has decided to renew his membership. The return to the fold by the nonagenarian, who still commands a lot of respect, was initiated by current Histadrut secretary-general Amir Peretz, who believes that Ben-Aharon can help heal the current rift between the Histadrut and the Kibbutz Movement.

THE long-time relationship between Woody Allen and Mia Farrow was, to put it mildly, a little strange. Stranger still is the 61-year-old Allen's relationship with his step-daughter Soon-Yi Previn, 26, the adopted daughter of Farrow and conductor Andre Previn, who preceded Allen in Farrow's affections. After several years of bedding Soon-Yi, Allen has announced his intention to marry her, but only on condition that she sign an agreement that in the event the marriage fails, she waives all rights to a divorce settlement. The agreement also stipulates that she will continue to live in her own apartment as did her mother, will visit Allen's apartment only twice a week, and will speak to her mother only with Allen's express permission. So what does Soon-Yi get out of this deal? Maybe love really is

Critics sober about new wine labels

By CURT ANDERSON

A little wine is fine. Numerous health studies have shown that moderate alcohol intake can even reduce the risk of heart disease in some people.

But the American wine industry's proposal to include new wording on bottle labels referring to the "health effects" of "moderate" wine drinking has spurred criticism by federal health officials that it might be a subtle way to encourage people to imbibe too much.

The Department of Health and Human Services is urging the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to delay approval of the labels, which would be permitted on both domestic and imported wines sold in the US.

"The proposal under consideration is a thinly disguised attempt to make an affirmative health claim," said Dr. John M. Eisenberg, acting assistant secretary for health.

"Anti-alcohol has tried to depict the wine industry as no different than cigarettes or heroin. We want to improve our image."

—US Wine Institute President John DeLuca

"I am deeply concerned that your approval of the label statements in their current form would be construed by the public as encouraging the consumption of alcoholic beverages," Eisenberg said in a letter to ATF Director John Magaw.

Despite the criticism, ATF officials have signaled they are likely to endorse the labels.

Wine labels already contain warnings that women should not drink during pregnancy and that alcoholic beverages can impair driving and cause health problems.

To the warning, a label proposed by the San Francisco-based Wine Institute adds these words: "To learn the health effects of moderate wine consumption, send for the federal government's Dietary Guidelines for Americans." It gives a mailing address and an Internet web site.

A second proposal would say: "The proud people who make this wine encourage you to consult your family doctor about the health effects of wine enjoyment." Wine Institute President John DeLuca said the government guidelines discuss both the risks and benefits of drinking alcohol. He said the proposed wording makes no claims that wine is good for you.

"We're not saying health benefits, we're saying health effects," he said. "We're not for a blanket

endorsement. We think there is a scientific balance struck in the guidelines, and we should be allowed to disseminate them."

DeLuca acknowledged there would be "some marketing benefits" to the labels, but he said the vintners' true purpose is providing people with a way to obtain government-endorsed information that wine is not all bad.

"The anti-alcohol movement has tried to depict us as no different than cigarettes or heroin," he said. "We want to improve our image." So far, ATF's Magaw has rejected the argument that the labels make any claims about

lence, said Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"Nobody's going to send away for the dietary guidelines or talk to their doctor — that's irrational," Jacobson said. "The labels will help create a climate that alcoholic beverages are not a problem."

DeLuca maintained, however, that what vintners really want is a "cultural development" that would make attitudes toward wine in the US more like those in much of Europe, where wine is regularly consumed with meals, even by young children.



Wine with every meal: Too much of a good thing?

health and drinking. In a recent letter to HHS, he indicated that his agency was nearing a decision and would likely approve the change.

"They merely direct the consumer to a qualified source of information regarding the health effects of alcohol consumption," Magaw wrote. "Both statements are neutral. Neither statement characterizes health benefits or risks."

ATF's apparent willingness to endorse the labels has outraged some anti-alcohol and health groups, who want studies done to determine how consumers might perceive the new wording.

The labels might call to a consumer's mind positive publicity about the link between alcohol consumption and reduced heart disease, but not about alcohol's negative links to cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, car crashes and vio-

"Our science is only catching up with the wisdom of other cultures," he said. "This is only an educational tool." (AP)

Home Front

The rocky road down the aisle

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

The stress was palpable even across international telephone lines. It was my friend Sharon calling from New York, where she was in the throes of a unique state which, if we are lucky, occurs only once in a lifetime. The condition is called High Wedding Anxiety.

Every year as Tu B'Shvat, the holiday of love, unleashes the onslaught of the local wedding season, the air is filled with the joys of matrimony. It is all supposed to sweep you along on a wave of nostalgia, dreaming of the beautiful day you got married and feeling a bit wistful that you will never be the center of attention the way you were as a bride.

Do I remember my wedding day fondly? Of course. Would I relive my wedding day if I could? Sure. But would I touch the six months leading up to my wedding with a 10-foot pole? No way. This feeling was reinforced, as I listened patiently to Sharon, whose wedding is next week.

"I don't get it. I thought the wedding was supposed to be about me and my fiancé."

"I don't get it. I thought the wedding was supposed to be about me and my fiancé," she moaned. "But everyone else seems to think it's about them."

That's the rub of planning your wedding. You are making more choices in a shorter period of time than you have ever done, regarding an event that is as important to your relatives as it is to you. Everything is a negotiation: first between you and your partner, then with both sets of parents — not to mention siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and sometimes even strong-minded friends and distant cousins.

I felt as if brokering Middle East peace must be more simple than coming up with a dress, a location, a rabbi, a menu, flowers, music, and photographers that could make everybody happy. Let's not kid ourselves: Much of the reason wedding decision-making is so stressful is that it all involves money — lots of money, and usually, the money is not all yours. Planning a wedding would be much simpler I would imagine, if, for example, one were a self-made millionaire. Then you could take everyone else's preferences into account but in the end, create precisely the kind of wedding you want with a clear conscience. Or the other extreme — if you let go, let one set of parents plan and pay for the whole thing and you just show up and

the dinner would be a buffet or a sit-down (buffet), whether I would spend an unreasonable amount of money on a dress that made me look fabulous (I did) prepared us for years of joint decision-making. The key to success at our wedding? On the eve of the event, we looked at each other and took a vow: No matter what went wrong on that day, we would be happy and have a wonderful time; we vowed not to let anything spoil our joy.

And nothing did. Not the parts of the hall the florist forgot to decorate, not the corny *Fiddler on the Roof* music that the pianist insisted on playing despite our explicit objections, not even the fact that my husband came down with the flu and was running an incredibly high fever during the ceremony (to this day, he questions whether his wedding vows were valid, since he was on so much medication when he took them).

So today, as I attend this year's batch of nuptials as a perfectly passive spectator, I remember the process of creating a wedding as being the last hurdle in a marathon obstacle course. After a great deal of effort, you make it through the event, panting, sweating, tired, but happy — you feel you accomplished something significant. You are officially married. And that's when the real work begins.

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DEAR RUTHIE

Younger man, old guilt trip

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I am a 50-year-old woman with a boyfriend who is 35. I am flattered that someone so much younger is interested in me. I also enjoy our physical relationship. But I am embarrassed by him in public, particularly in front of my children. I feel as though people are staring at me and pointing behind my back about my having a gigolo.

Also, he is not that bright, so when he speaks about certain topics I can imagine my friends rolling their eyes. I think this means I should stop seeing this man, but on the other hand, he makes me feel 16 again. What can I do?

Gigolo Joyful
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Gigolo Joyful, Pinpointing the source of distress is usually the hardest part of solving a problem, since the source is often precisely the thing that our unconscious hides from

our conscious. In your case, self-awareness — the dialogue between your unconscious and your conscious — seems to be quite high. You are fortunate to be able to look the "monster" in the face before attempting to conquer it.

It is clear that certain elements of your relationship with this man are incredibly pleasing and satisfactory, while others provoke shame at worst, and discomfort at best. The best solution to this problem, then, would be to hold on to the aspect of the union that you crave, and discard what makes you cringe. Try minimizing contact between this man and your children and friends, while maximizing private encounters.

Dear Ruthie, My husband's sister has been taking antidepressant medication since she was in her early teens. Apparently this began after a series of what the family euphemistically refers to as "unpleasant episodes."

I do not know exactly what kind of medicine it is, but I know that

when she fails to take it she has additional "unpleasant episodes," which — on two occasions since I've been in the family — have led to her hospitalization.

My dilemma is connected to my sister-in-law's impending marriage. The family has been in a euphoric state over the engagement to a guy she met a few months ago. It's understandable that her parents should want her to have a "normal" life. But what troubles me is that they have some kind of unspoken pact about not telling her fiancé about her mental illness.

I think this is a big mistake, and I said so to my in-laws a couple of weeks ago. They were upset with me for interfering and swore me to secrecy about their daughter. I agreed, but I have a sinking feeling. I figure that writing you anonymously is not like breaking my promise — especially since nobody involved in this issue knows English. What can you advise me?

Family Tied
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Family Tied, Though you may be correct in wanting to persuade your in-laws to reveal this problem, it is not your place to do so without their permission. Eventually, the groom-to-be will find out about his future wife's illness, since she will not be able to hide her dealings with her medication forever.

Furthermore, during this pre-wedding period — which is stressful for all brides-to-be — your sister-in-law is especially likely to have an "unpleasant episode." If she does, you have no cause to feel burdened by information that is not really yours to share. If she does not, she will be forced, nevertheless, to let the cat out of the bag at some point, especially if she intends to have children. Hopefully, her doctors will be keeping tabs on her physical and emotional state throughout the current period, and later.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

IN TUNE

Oasis takes the crown

By DAVID BRINN

Oasis's Noel Gallagher doesn't have a lot to say, but he sure knows how to say it. The flamboyant British band's third full-length album is a tour de force of Gallagher's immense writing and production talents and his brother Liam's virtuoso vocal performances.

For those who considered Oasis's first two efforts nothing more than Beatles rip-offs by a bunch of uncultured louts, *Be Here Now* will unlikely change opinions. Because it is more of the same - only richer, deeper and more intense. The Bic-beld-aloft variety sing-along anthems are more addictive, the rock 'n' roll is more blustery, and they're all showered in an over-the-top wall of sound that Phil Spector would be proud of.

Be Here Now is one big, loud statement, from the purposeful first single "D'You Know What I Mean?" to the orchestrated nine-minute epic "All Around the World." The Gallaghers know how to pour old whiskey into a new bottle, and aside from the blatant "All the Young Dudes" tribute in the chorus of "Stand by Me," they manage to neatly dress the past up in new clothes.

BE HERE NOW
(NMC)

RISE OH ISRAEL
Roots Afrika
(NMC)

COIL
Toad the Wet Sprocket
(Import)

The sound is so overwhelming that the simplistic lyrics (basically variations on everything will be OK, please don't leave me, let's make the world a better place) don't detract from the excitement, especially when sung with Liam's unique mix of Lennon-esque clarity and Rotteneque sneer.

So few bands these days are larger than life, the way the Beatles and the Stones were in their heyday. Oasis, with its rock-star obnoxiousness, brash cockiness, and superlative songs to back them up, are the clear heirs to their thrones.

One early British review of the album said that Oasis's primary

job has been to take over the Beatles' task of making the country (Britain) feel good. And these are definitely feel-good songs, songs that will sound perfect sung by thousands in stadiums. No doubt about it, Oasis will finally conquer America after a stand-offish courtship until now. There hasn't been a more impressive rock record released this year.

ROOTS Afrika is a local two-tone reggae band making waves in Tel Aviv with its inspired live performances. Its recorded debut *Rise Oh Israel* is a bouncing high-spirited reggae fest, fueled by guitarist/writer Derick Rose and singer Emanuel Yerdar, two transplanted Jamaicans.

Treading the familiar lyrical paths of Babylon, liberation and reward, the band adds nothing new to the reggae tradition but practices its craft with respect and admiration for that tradition. When it gets into a groove, watch for Bob Marley smiling behind your back.

BAD name, great band. Toad the Wet Sprocket is an American guitar quartet that has stood on the fringes of commercial success since its first record in 1989.

Too tasteful and level-headed to be alternative, and not quite distinctive enough to set it apart from countless other bands which stress songcraft, intelligent execution, and heart, Toad has maintained a not small cult following which has grown with each release. Graduates of the R.E.M. - Gin Blossoms school of "songs first - image second," the band and its new album, *Coil*, are ripe for a big breakout.

Featuring two guitarists/singers/writers in Glen Phillips and Todd Nichols, Toad is brimming with hooks, harmonies, and musical ideas. Nichols offers some amazing lines and accents on his guitar, and the frequent mix of acoustic and electric guitars propels the music forward.

So why aren't they stars? My theory is that the only thing that's holding the band back is its seriousness. There is a noticeable lack of light-heartedness, which may put listeners off at first or prevent them from checking out the band at all. Maybe it should change its name to U2, get some bad haircuts, and release an album called *Pop*.



Oasis's guiding light Noel Gallagher looks for inspiration in '78 recordings designed for old-fashioned gramophones.

Dance in real time

By HELEN KAYE

Rachy, gritty or glorious, seems to be the theme of the four companies making up this year's *Mahol Bemushkan* series, or Dance at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

The participating companies are Batsheva Dance, the Frankfurt Ballet, the Ballet Preljocaj, and Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre. Each will present a full-length modern dance work.

The series starts November 26 with the world premiere of a new, and as yet unnamed, work by Ohad Naharin for his Batsheva Dance Company (BD). Excerpts from the piece will premiere at the Netherlands Dance Theater (NDT) the preceding month, but Israel will get the entire banquet as part of BD's salute to the country's 50th birthday. The music - and it is an integral part of the piece - is performed by the innovative Orkater, a duo of Dutch musicians.

Local audiences know choreographer Angelin Preljocaj from the work he has done with BD. Last year he formed his own company and is making his TAPAC debut in January with a revised version of his 1990 *Romeo and Juliet* to Prokofiev's music with a running commentary of special sound effects. This take is set in a futuristic *Blade Runner*-type city, where the Capulets and the Montagues are locked in a desperate battle for survival.

William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet returns to TAPAC with *Eidos-Telos* which roughly means "the form-the goal." Forsythe's dazblers are not story ballets. He is concerned with time and mortality, and he stretches his dancers to their physical limits.

Based in Adelaide, Tankard's company has been making waves in Europe with *Furtoso*, built around the ritual of the male-female relationship. Tankard herself danced with Pina Bausch, but this is the company's debut in Israel.

Tickets to BD are about 35% cheaper than to the visiting dance companies. A season ticket (four) costs from NIS 472 to NIS 672. Single tickets range from NIS 70 to NIS 210. There are also two- and three-show package deals.

Gary Oldman wins big at Edinburgh

By JAMES FORRESTER

British actor Gary Oldman's first venture into movie-making won the top award on Sunday at the 51st Edinburgh film festival.

Oldman's *Nil by Mouth*, a view of working-class alcoholism and domestic violence in south London, won the Channel Four Director's Award, one of several British films honored there.

A close runner-up was a controversial film about a cystic fibrosis sufferer who blots out his agony through masochistic self-mutilation.

The awards were presented by Scottish actor Sean Connery and Michael Caine, both stars of the late John Huston's film *The Man Who Would Be King*, which was screened in the final event of the festival. Huston once described the Edinburgh event as "the only festival worth a damn."

Other winners included *Under the Skin*, a first feature by British director Carine Adler, about a young woman's response to her mother's death from cancer.

Adler's film won the Michael Powell Award for best new British film, beating off tough competition from 18 entries, including *Mrs. Brown*, in which Judi Dench plays Queen Victoria, and Scots comedian Billy Connolly her faithful servant John Brown, and *Wilde*, in which Stephen Fry plays out the life of the 19th-century wit and dramatist Oscar Wilde.

The only foreign winner was *Wanemday 19.7.1961*, a documentary by Victor Kossakovsky about 50 boys and 51 girls born in Leningrad on the same day as he was.

Festival Director Lizzie Francke said that 1997 was the most successful year so far for the world's longest-running film festival. Box office sales were up around 10 percent and screenings had, for the first time, used every movie theater in the Scottish capital.

(Reuters)

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	5	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#2	2	8	VIA	HITMAN 8
#3	8	4	VIA	SUMMER PARTY
#4	14	14	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#5	NEW	1	OASIS	BE HERE NOW
#6	NEW	1	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET BACK
#7	3	4	ARIK EISEN	LEAN PARHU ...
#8	5	28	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#9	7	8	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETITZI
#10	6	7	VIA	SUMMER FIESTA 2
#11	NEW	1	URI FAINMAN	SEALED WITH A KISS
#12	9	10	TEA PACKS	NESHIKA LADOD
#13	19	9	PRODIDY	FAT OF THE LAND
#14	13	3	ASTRAL PROJECTION	DANCING GALAXY
#15	14	2	SHABAK SAMEAH	ATIFA SHEL MAMTAK

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

CLASSIC DISCS

Mustonen's must-hear collection

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Olli Mustonen is undoubtedly one of the greatest young musicians performing today. I have become familiar with his artistry over the years and always was fascinated by his total commitment to whatever he was doing. I have heard him play in numerous chamber-music concerts and twice as a soloist with the Jerusalem Symphony

Orchestra-IBA. He recently made a successful debut with the IPO, playing the Grieg piano concerto.

Mustonen's recordings are as engaging as his performances. In both one realizes that he is not one of the numerous flashy pianists who is interested only in outer appearances and circus-like virtuosity. Mustonen is a thinking pianist who usually plays the standard repertoire in new, somewhat different ways than one is accustomed to. This is obvious in the concert hall and on disc too.

Mustonen's choice of recorded repertoire is revealing as well. His close to 10 discs do not yet include the obvious piano concert warhorses in the repertoire. The only concerti disc he has at the moment is the one coupling the Grieg with Chopin's first (Decca 444 518-2), with Herbert Bloomstedt conducting the San Francisco Orchestra.

The Chopin is anything but the romantic concerto we are used to, it is much more profound and much more introverted and classic in style, as well as being most compelling. The Grieg is devoid of flashy romanticism as well. Rather Mustonen delves deep into the music and presents it as if we have never heard it before.

Mustonen is thinking through-out; he does not do things differently for the sake of being different. He does whatever he does because he simply believes in it.

Actually there is one more orchestral disc to Mustonen's credit. In it he couples Bach's D major keyboard concerto (an arrangement of the composer's violin concerto in E), which he conducts from the keyboard, with Beethoven's D major piano concerto, that is actually the piano arrangement of the violin concerto.

The coupling is engaging. The Bach sounds much more authentic than many so-called authentic performances and the Beethoven is sweeping in its



Pianist Olli Mustonen shies away from commercialism.

swift playing and floating romantic lyricism (Decca 443 118-2).

One of the most engaging Mustonen discs is the one featuring Shostakovich's second piano trio (with Joshua Bell and Steven Isserlis), which is simply mesmerizing in the way they play it.

Also on the disc is Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Times*, in which the three are joined by clarinetist Steven Collins (Decca 452 899-2).

Both works are performed with utter sincerity, devotion and intensity.

In the Shostakovich the familiar heaviness and doom are replaced with something that has much more space to breathe without harming the power of the piece, while the Messiaen is as beguiling in its overt dramatic playing.

Mustonen joins Bell in a disc of three works for piano and violin by Prokofiev. They play the two sonatas and the five melodies with passion, devotion, expansive sound and the total commitment to the music expected from them (Decca 440 926-2).

Mustonen's solo discs are also not that obvious in their choice

of repertoire. But the one featuring the Opus 34 preludes by Shostakovich and the Opus 31 preludes by Alkan suggest that he shies away conscientiously from pure commercialism (Decca 433 055-2). His Beethoven disc with dances, bagatelles and variations features little-known Beethoven masterpieces performed in a very romantic and sweeping way (Decca 452 206-2).

Pictures at an Exhibition (Decca 436 255-2) is one of his best albums, a mesmerizing contemplative affair which is totally remote from the customary showy reading of this work, a performance devoid of sheer sound, a performance that is much more than beauty of tone and large sound.

It is a performance that suggests that this opus has much more in it than actually meets the eye.

The disc also includes a touching performance of Tchaikovsky's *Children's Album* and Balakirev's *Islemye* played in a most contemplative way.

All this is Mustonen the performer. But there is also Mustonen the composer, who is as engaging if not more so.

The disc of his compositions (Finlandia 4509-95860-2) is one of the most exciting collections of music I have heard in a long time. It features nine works ranging in style and form, most solo piano works and one very captivating and touching fantasy for piano and orchestra.

Lisening to this disc, one can grasp many things about Mustonen the performer.

Like the pianist in him, the composer in Mustonen is searching for new way to express himself, yet in contrast to the pianist, the composer is clearly influenced by past masters, from Bach onwards, playing homage to them and using their music as a point of departure to continue in his own personal way. It is a disc no music lover can afford to miss. It's a real joy, a collection of perfect gems.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Ilan Hatzor's riotous adaptation of Gogol's classic play *The Inspector General* has been Israelized into *The State Comptroller*, and the action has moved from Russia to a small Negev development town where the impending visit by the State Comptroller's representative sends the mayor (Yossi Graber), his social-climbing wife (Tikki Dayan), and daughter (Keren Mor) into a tizzy.

Tonight on the Cameri theater main stage at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

FESTIVAL

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

There are more than a few musical gems in the Kesem Shel Agada (Magical Summer) festival at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv over the next three days.

Today (5 and 7) there is a new rock/ethnic music version of Aladdin, while Thursday (5 & 7:30) there is a new version of Cinderella with seven actors and 20 puppets, set to an operatic score. The music was written by Avi Benayahu, one of Israel's most invigorating theatrical composers.

TELEVISION

ILANA CHIPMAN

After leaving his rather cushy spot as host of Channel 1's Friday entertainment show, host Yair Lapid moves to a daily spot on weeknights on the Family Channel.

Lapid, a rather talented journalist, hosts *Yair Lapid Live* at 10, at 10 p.m., which aims at being a kind of local *Larry King Live*. He will host one or two guests with whom he will talk about all sorts of issues, from politics to gossip and entertainment.

Yossi Siyas's increasingly popular *Love Story* will continue to follow at 10:30 p.m.



Rowan Atkinson brings his zany humor to 'Mr. Bean.'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***** BEAN - British comic Rowan Atkinson has lopsided eyes, big flaps for ears, almost no chin, and a sharp beak of a nose that slopes to a perilous point. His jaggedly disproportionate features seem expressly designed to help him make funny faces, and in the new film based on his popular TV character, he has ample opportunity to do just that. Bit for bit, *Bean* is constructed of some of the zaniest and most delightful physical comedy of the last several years, although attempts to recount this humor in words ("and then he puts a turkey in the microwave...") are bound to come up short, reducing the quirky comic logic of *Bean*'s bearing to a laundry list of predictable and abrupt-sounding gags. Most of these routines, though, build gradually, ingeniously, through a carefully choreographed progression of actions and reactions, often of *Bean* to himself.

Directed by Mel (The Tall Guy) Smith, and written by Richard Curtis and Robin Driscoll (both veterans of *Mr. Bean*), the film takes shape as a hyperbolic whirlwind tour of L.A., where the very English Mr. Bean seems even more profoundly out of place than usual. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
10:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 The Intrepid
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 Hot Science
12:10 Wilderness Edge
13:00 Cartoons (ppt)
13:10 The Story of Read Aloud-Deed Aloud

CHANNEL 2

10:30 Zappy Wave
10:35 Denver, the Last Dinosaur
10:50 Super Ben
10:50 Hooters High
10:55 Super Ben
10:55 Zappy Wave
11:00 A New Evening
11:30 Zappy Wave
11:35 Super Ben
11:40 Super Ben
11:45 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropo
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash
19:35 Zappy Wave
20:00 News
20:05 Lotto draw - live
20:05 The Philharmonic in the Park - the IFC, conducted by Daniel Oren, including actors by Yehudi Menuhin, Elton John, and Roshni

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Cartoons
7:00 The David and Max (David) (1981) - a man killed in a traffic accident is dealt with by the Devil (W. Elton Gould and Bill Cosby)
7:00 Cartoons
7:05 The David and Max (David) (1981) - a man killed in a traffic accident is dealt with by the Devil (W. Elton Gould and Bill Cosby)

CHANNEL 1

10:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
10:40 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
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CHANNEL 2

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (ppt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
8:00 Dallas (ppt)
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8:45 The Young and the Restless
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PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18:30	News flash Cosby							
20:00	News							
20:30	Lotto draw Philharmonic in the Park							
21:00	The People's Century							
21:30	Marriage Tel Aviv Style							
22:00	The People's Century							
22:30	Dream On							
23:00								

appeal after being
misjudged as a
scholarship boy. With
Keanu Ke (180 mins.)

CHANNEL 8

8:00 Open University
8:05 First Flung Floyd
Bangkok (pt)
9:00 Channel 8
9:00 World of Wine:
Port and Madeira (pt)
9:30 Romeo and Juliet
10:00 Out of the Sides
12:20 Ultrascience:
Impossible dreams
12:50 Healthy Body
13:00 Future Shock
Motion Control (pt)
13:50 Nature on Track:
The Gathers (pt)
14:00 Vision Eye on
15:10 Understanding
Flight (pt)
16:05 National
Geographic: The
Shannon Expedition
17:00 Open University
18:05 Ultrascience
18:50 Healthy Body
20:00 Future Shock
20:30 Nature on Track:
Elecha - portrait of a
Nambian game park
21:00 Eye on
21:30 Understanding
Time
22:30 National
Geographic: Among
the Elephants
22:35 Open University

■ **NBC
SUPERCHANNEL**
8:30 Travel Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 V.I.P.
8:30 NBC Nightly News
8:30 MSNBC News
9:00 Today
10:00 European
News
11:00 European
Music Wheel
12:30 CNBC US
News
13:00 World Dollar
17:30 Dream Builders
18:00 The Site
19:00 National
Geographic: Television
- Living Treasures of
Japan
20:00 The Ticket
20:30 VIP
20:30 CineStar
22:00 Major League
Baseball Highlights
23:00 The Tonight
Show with Jay Leno
00:00 Late Night with

Conan O'Brien
1:30 Late
2:00 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show (pt)

STAR PLUS

7:30 The Winter Years
8:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 ET
10:00 The Cool
10:50 Nine to Five
10:50 The X-Files
11:30 The Bold and
the Beautiful
12:00 Santa Barbara
13:00 WWF
Supershow
14:00 The Wonder Years
14:30 Arts Update
15:00 Hindi programs
16:30 Star News
17:00 The Home Mothers
Do 'Ave Em
18:30 Space: Above
and Beyond
19:00 The Bold and
the Beautiful
21:00 Santa Barbara
22:00 Star News
22:30 Eyewitness
23:30 Dynasty
00:00 Vegas
1:30 Oprah Winfrey
2:30 21 Jump Street

■ **CHANNEL 5**
8:30 Bodies in Motion
10:00 Bodies in Motion
10:30 British Soccer
18:00 English League
Soccer
19:00 Tel Aviv
Basketball Tour
23:00 Fabulous World
of Speed
23:30 National League
Basketball-roundup

EUROSPORT

9:30 European
Nations Cup
10:00 Handball
10:30 Berlusconi Trophy, Italy
- Milan vs. Juventus
Turin
12:00 Euroglobe
13:00 Touring Car
14:00 Wheelies
14:30 Water Ski World
Cup
15:00 Powerlifting
World Games
18:00 Canoeing
Flatwater Racing World
Championship
17:30 Cycling Track
World Cup
18:30 Tractor Pulling
19:30 Tug-of-War
World Games

20:30-4:00 Offroad
21:00 Powerlifting
World Games
22:00 Body Building
World Games
23:00 Boxing
1:00 Equestrian:
Nations Cup
2:00 Sailing Magazine

STAR SPORTS

6:00 Motorcycling:
Asia-Pacific Road
Race
7:00 Trans World Sport
8:00 Table Tennis:
Australian Open
10:00 Asian Sports
10:30 Omega Tour
12:30 US Open (pt)
16:00 Table Tennis:
Australian Open
18:00 US Open Live
23:00 Sports India
23:30 Omega Tour
24:00 Asian Tennis:
Australian Open

■ **BBC WORLD**

News on the hour
7:30 Window on Europe
8:00 Newsweek
9:00 Hand Talk (pt)
10:00 Window on
Europe (pt)
11:30 Jeremy
Clarkson's Motorworld
12:00 Newsnight
12:30 Tomorrow's
World (pt)
14:00 Newsweek
15:00 Window on
Europe
16:15 World Business
18:30 Asia-Pacific
Newshour
19:30 The Travel Show
20:00 Hand Talk
21:30 Airport (pt)
21:30 The World Today
22:30 BBC Reporters
23:00 Newsnight
of India: Go
00:00 Newsweek
1:00 Asia Today
2:10 Newsnight

■ **CNN
INTERNATIONAL**

News through the day
6:30 Pinnacle Report
7:30 Insight
8:30 Moneyline (pt)
9:00 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:30 CNN Newsmoon
12:30 World Report
13:30 American Edition
19:45 C&A (pt)

14:30 Asian News
14:30 World Sport (pt)
15:15 Asian News
15:30 Business Asia
16:00 Larry King Live
17:30 World Sport (pt)
18:30 Asia Today
19:30 C&A
22:45 American Edition
23:00 World Business
Today
22:00 Larry King Live
22:30 European News
23:00 Insight
00:00 World Business
Today Update
00:30 World Sport
01:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Morning Concert
8:05 Ramsey-Korskar:
Suite from The Golden
Cordons; Tchaikovsky:
Suite no. 1 in D minor;
orch op 43; J. G. Fauré:
Vocal concert in B minor;
Norm Shostak: Shepherd
Pastorale
Symphonic Cole
12:00 Light Classical
- Playlist: Ernie Klenau
Nachtstraßen; Alexander
Rakos: Concerto in E flat
for viola and strings; R.
Strauss: Burleske in D
minor
13:00 Artist of the Week:
Thomas Demenga, Back-
Suits no 4 in E flat for
cello solo BWV 1010;
Holliger: Duo for violin
and cello
14:05 Encore - Chausion
and Rachmaninoff
15:00 From the Recording
Studio - Mario Damiens,
violin
Scandinavian composers
16:00 My Concert with
Amos Keinen
18:00 New CDs - M.
Smetana: Symphony no
15; Grieg: Horn; Peace
on Earth; music: Shostak-
ovich: Symphony no 14
22:15 From The Worlds
Concert Halls - (1)
Slovenian Radio
Symphony Orch.
Slovenian Radio Choir,
Concertum Muzicum
Ljubljana: Rhapsody
for alto, choir and orchestra
Haydn: Mass in Time of
War, (2) Mendelssohn: A
Midsummer Night's Dream
22:50 A Musical Journey

Mevasseret Zion squatters evicted

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN,
JOE CHARLAFF and Itim

Police and border police yesterday removed homeless families who had occupied 114 apartments at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center near Jerusalem, arresting 12 people in the process.

After being briefed Sunday night, approximately 1,000 policemen and border policemen gathered at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium before proceeding to Mevasseret Zion.

The highly organized operation began at about 9:30 in the morning, when some of the families were still sleeping, and many of the men had already left for work.

Bosmat Abarjel, 19, a mother of a week-old baby and whose husband was in hospital, said the police entered while she was sleeping and broke her television set. When her mother-in-law tried to make her some coffee, she found the police had already turned off the gas.

Dudu Meru, 32, said: "We're going directly from the apartments to the sidewalks. We broke in here because we have no place else to go, so we're putting our stuff right here on the sidewalk. Then we plan to break into schools that have been prepared for the opening of the school year, so that at least we have a roof over our heads."

He added: "I woke up and heard police cars, helicopters, horses and loud walkie-talkies."

We got very scared. The police broke down the door without knocking. The last time they came, they announced it on a loudspeaker. This time they came with horses and knocked the doors down, grabbed us and took us outside by force."

Many of the squatters complained that police did not even give them time to get dressed, and forcibly removed them. Many of the women and children were in nightgowns or pajamas.

A number managed to remove their possessions before the police arrived. Some took their belongings to the homes of their parents who live nearby, while others were still on the street.

The homeless originally took over the apartments in mid-June and were evicted on July 3, but later returned to the center.

A police spokesman said no violence was encountered and the squatters were being brought in to the local police station for questioning.

An official at the Mevasseret Zion local council said the council was not involved in the evacuation, and had been trying to find a solution for the problem.

A Jewish Agency spokesman noted that the High Court of Justice is to hear a petition today from the agency about the failure to evacuate the squatters.

The spokesman said that while the agency is sympathetic with the plight of the homeless, their situation could not be resolved by breaking into places intended for new immigrants.



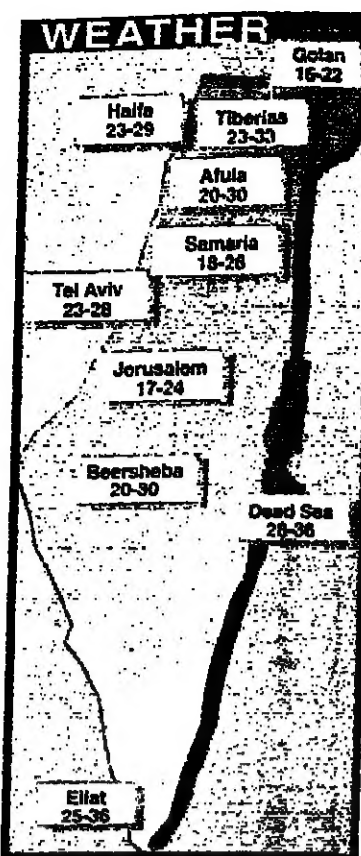
Border policemen cut the window bars of an apartment occupied by squatters in Mevasseret Zion yesterday.

"The solving of the nation's social problems cannot come at the expense of the absorption of

immigrants, who are an important element in the strength of Israel," the spokesman said.

He said many of the squatters were not homeless at all. The spokesman praised the police

efforts, but added that the Jewish Agency was sorry no fitting solution had been found for the homeless among the squatters, either by the local council or other bodies.



Forecast: Partly cloudy
Drop in temperatures:
Unseasonably cool

Amsterdam	19	06	28	EC	cloudy
Antwerp	18	04	21	86	cloudy
Buenos Aires	16	06	18	84	clear
Cairo	23	23	26	95	partly cloudy
Chicago	18	01	28	78	clear
Copenhagen	10	08	16	79	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	03	21	80	cloudy
Geneva	17	03	21	80	cloudy
Helsinki	16	04	21	73	rain
Hong Kong	28	28	30	86	cloudy
Johannesburg	06	03	23	73	clear
Lisbon	18	01	27	81	partly cloudy
London	18	04	22	72	rain
Los Angeles	20	08	31	88	clear
Madrid	18	04	22	72	rain
Moscow	13	05	24	75	clear
Munich	12	07	27	81	clear
New York	20	08	27	77	partly cloudy
Rome	18	04	28	80	cloudy
Stockholm	16	03	21	73	cloudy
Sydney	07	05	17	63	clear
Tokyo	24	24	28	75	cloudy
Toronto	15	03	21	73	cloudy
Warsaw	17	03	21	84	clear
Zurich	17	03	21	84	clear

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GOLDEN LINES
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Winning cards

In yesterday's first Chance drawing (275/97), the winning cards were the jack of spades, the nine of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the queen of

clubs. In the second drawing (276/97), the winning cards were the nine of spades, the queen of hearts, the nine of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

NEWSLINE

with Barbara Epstein

Barbara Epstein is director of Community Advocacy/Genesis, a grassroots group that lobbies for social rights and helps people learn of and access entitlements.

Who is entitled to housing assistance?

Every young couple is entitled to a government-supported mortgage. The amount, however, is continuously updated, and now stands at around NIS 70,000. Most low-income families are not able to use this mortgage to buy an apartment, because they don't have additional money of their own, or help from parents to take out an additional mortgage. Because of this, there are a number of supplementary programs that help, depending on the number of points a family accrues. Points are awarded on the basis of the number of children that the couple's parents had, the number of years the family has gone without housing, and how many children are in the family. This is often a Catch-22 situation - the worse the condition you are in, the more help you are entitled to, and so the most mortgage assistance is offered to those who can least afford to take advantage of it.

There is also a very limited supply of public housing for people with very low incomes, and extremely low-rent housing for families with three or more children who earn less than NIS 3,400 shekels a month. They have to be a family or a single parent with three or more children. So as you can see, there are a lot of people who fall between the cracks. The working poor, earning the minimum wage, have no way of getting an apartment.

What about renting?
The Israeli housing market is based on ownership; there is no real rental market. Private housing rentals are rare, the market is very tight and prices are very high. Government rental subsidies, limited to three years, are given to some of the poor, on the premise that at the end of that period, a family will have saved enough to buy a flat. But rents are so high that even with the subsidy there is no way a poor family can save enough for a down payment.

There were media reports that the Mevasseret squatters had nice cars and cellular phones. Some people have implied that they are simply spoiled, insisting on living in the expensive Jerusalem area instead of moving somewhere else.

Just because you can't afford an apartment doesn't mean you can't afford to buy a car. After all, you still need to get to work, to get your children around. As for cellular phones, people without a permanent place to live have to have cellular phones so that people can reach them. I've also heard people claim that it is less costly to keep a cellular phone than a regular line.

As for geography, when you are talking about members of the working poor, extended family support is vital. They often depend on their family for child care, for Shabbat meals, for other kinds of help. It is much easier for any skilled professional to go live in Dimona for a couple of years. A teacher, for example, can go live in the periphery and teach, and then come back to the center of the country once he or she has saved some money. But what are non-professional, non-skilled workers going to do once they've moved to a cheap apartment in Dimona? How many delivery men, how many nannies can find work in Dimona? For most, unless there is a factory job waiting, such a move would simply mean unemployment.

Allison Kaplan Sommer

British attack victim praises police

Charlotte Gibb, the British hitchhiker who was shot and wounded two weeks ago during an attack in which her boyfriend, Jeffrey Hunter, was killed sent a letter of appreciation yesterday to Negev District police commending them for solving the crime.

Police on Friday arrested Daniel Okef, 45, of Even Yehuda, a major in the IDF reserves, who has reportedly confessed to killing Hunter, 22, and wounding Gibb, 20 after giving them a ride north of Eilat on August 13.

"I express my heartfelt appreciation for the work put in by the commander of the district and the team of investigators in order to find the person who shot me and my friend," Gibb wrote. "I very much appreciate what you did and must point out that I did not think that you would catch him so quickly."

"I can only explain this by your professionalism. My words are insufficient to express my thanks to you. When I heard the news about the suspect's capture, this was a great relief for me and it will help me get on in life knowing that you have everything under control."

Gibb wrote further that she had tried to help the investigators as much as she could in order to catch the killer. "I know that he didn't just decide to do what he did [on the spur of the moment]. I'm sure of it," she said. (Itim)